



**RYAN GUILLEN**  
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TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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**Chairman Guillen Targets Feral Hogs, Other Issues**  
Guillen Addresses Interim Charges Related to Wildlife, State Parks, and Tourism

**AUSTIN** – Responding to the recently released interim charges, Chairman Ryan Guillen (D-District 31) has placed the two million feral hogs in Texas squarely in his sights. Guillen says he welcomes a request from House Speaker Joe Straus to the Committee on Culture, Recreation, and Tourism and the Committee on Agriculture and Livestock to come up with “practical and effective” ways to halt the estimated \$400 million in agricultural and ecological damage done annually by these destructive and sometimes dangerous animals.

Guillen also faces the challenge of creating a long-term plan to bring lands that have been donated or sold to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department into the state park system and to assess the economic impact on the state from recreational and tourism grants, particularly those that focus on cultural, recreational and heritage tourism as well as historic district preservation and courthouse revitalization.

“All of our interim charges are big issues,” Guillen noted, “And they're all tied together, stretching across the state and affecting almost every community in Texas.”

After taking input from the chairs and other leaders in the House, Speaker Joe Straus recently sent out the biennial interim charges, which frequently lead to major legislation in the next legislative session based on hearings and reports produced by the committees.

As the Chairman of the House Committee on Culture, Recreation, and Tourism, State Representative Ryan Guillen will address interim charges related to state parks, wildlife, hunting, fishing, state culture, the Texas film and music industries, historic preservation, and tourism.

“The charges spotlight important issues, and how we address them in the next legislative session will have a significant impact on all Texas residents,” stated Chairman Guillen. “With the help of the other committee members, our goal will be to map out the needs of our state agencies and our communities across Texas.”

“I remain committed that we must invest in the future to keep Texas strong. The public parks, seashores, rivers and lakes we enjoy today, as well as the tremendous growth of our cultural and historical tourism industry, were cultivated and fostered by Texans over previous generations, and we owe it to our children and future generations to continue that tradition,” Rep. Guillen said.

The committee has also been charged with conducting legislative oversight of the agencies and programs under the committee’s jurisdiction and the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 83rd Legislature. This oversight will include considering reforms of state agencies to make them more responsive to taxpayers and citizens; determine whether agencies are operating efficiently and with transparency; and streamline programs and services while maintaining the mission of the agencies.

The House Committee of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism strives to conserve Texas' rich and abundant fisheries and wildlife resources and preserve our cultural and historical assets, all of which make Texas the most unique state.