



By Robert Osborne

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As you read this, a group from the Alliance will have just returned from a trip to Washington to discuss important legislative and regulatory issues with U.S. House and Senate leadership and the 36 members of the House from Texas.

Texas is in a unique position, because seven committee chairmen in the House represent Texas. The seven committee chairmen are Kevin Brady (The Woodlands), Ways & Means; Mac Thornberry (Amarillo/Wichita Falls), Armed Services; Jeb Hensarling (Dallas), Finance; Lamar Smith (San Antonio), Science, Space & Technology; Michael McCaul (Austin), Homeland Security; Michael Conaway (Midland) Agriculture; and Pete Sessions (Dallas), Rules.

Additionally, Senator John Cornyn is the Number Two in the Senate right behind Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

Meeting face-to-face with members of Congress is important in explaining our position on tax reform, regulatory overreach, and reducing the powers of bureaucrats.

The Alliance's Board adopted a resolution in November that directed us *"to stand, now and in the future, against the blatant misuse of federal regulatory authority designed to place punitive and misguided federal regulation on Texas and our oil and gas fields."* The Alliance supports assigning many of the federal programs to the states for permitting, inspection, and compliance.

This includes looking for opportunities, whenever a federal statute is opened, to increase delegation opportunities to the state. All of these have some type of duplication of programs already implemented by the states. The duplication by the federal government is costly and unnecessary, and has been used over the past eight years for political purposes.

We also recommend that the federal budgets be utilized to accomplish these delegation goals. Simply delegating more money out of the federal agency budgets to existing state programs can have a powerful impact and allow the states to grow their expertise, and limit the ever expanding federal bureaucracy.

Because this is being written the week before our trip, I will have to report to you next month the results. Best wishes to everyone for a wonderful and prosperous 2017.