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Speaker Bonnen Appoints State Representative Todd Hunter to Windstorm Insurance Legislative Funding and Funding Structure Oversight Board

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas -- Texas Speaker of the House Dennis Bonnen has appointed State Representative Todd Hunter (R-Corpus Christi) to the Windstorm Insurance Legislative Funding and Funding Structure Oversight Board, which has been tasked with analyzing the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association's (TWIA) funding structure and operations before issuing recommendations for improvement and sustainability.

"As a legislative voice for coastal Texans, it has been my greatest priority over the years to ensure fair and affordable access to windstorm insurance coverage," said Representative Hunter. "I have consistently led the fight against unjustified rate hikes proposed by TWIA, and I am eager to begin the critical work of this committee to repair our broken and costly windstorm insurance system."

Coastal property owners have endured ever-increasing windstorm insurance costs over the years, while residents and businesses continue to recover from Hurricane Harvey. In response, the Texas Legislature created the TWIA funding oversight board during the 2019 session to assess TWIA's funding structure, determine how other states operate catastrophic risk pools, and hear public testimony on funding for the organization. The board will then be required to submit a report of their findings and recommendations to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house.

"As a representative of a coastal House district, Rep. Hunter is intimately knowledgeable about the ongoing challenges associated with TWIA and the frustrations of his constituency as a result," said Speaker Bonnen. "His ongoing leadership on this issue makes him exceptionally qualified to find and implement solutions in the interest of coastal property owners and all Texans."

TWIA was created by the State of Texas as an insurer of last resort for wind and hailstorm damage, but in recent years, mounting challenges with their rate structure have led to costly rate hikes on property owners and raised serious concerns over the association's long-term stability. Rep. Hunter has been at the forefront of fighting for property owners and defeating TWIA rate hike proposals, including their most recent recommendation to increase rates by 5% in 2020.

Other Speaker appointees to the board include State Representatives Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood), Eddie Lucio, III (D-Brownsville), and Alex Dominguez (D-Brownsville). The board will deliver a report of its findings on TWIA's funding structure and any legislative recommendations by November 15, 2020.

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