

# SENATOR'S NEWS RELEASE

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## SEN. ERDEY HIGHLIGHTS WORK OF 2011 REGULAR SESSION

### NOTES SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS TO PROTECT VITAL SERVICES AND TO ADDRESS INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC SAFETY NEEDS

District 13 State Senator Dale Erdey (R-Livingston) is generally pleased with the work of the recently concluded 2011 Regular Session. Among the highlights are the adoption of a fiscally responsible, balanced state budget that protects vital health care services and education efforts and the approval of important infrastructure and public safety proposals.

"The real good news is we avoided the predicted budget cliff in a prudent manner without a lot of damage to higher education and health care services, areas of the budget that have been hard hit in recent years," Sen. Erdey said. "At the same time we reduced the size of government, avoided the use of contingency funding and stopped the use of one-time money for recurring expenses."

Sen. Erdey also notes a continuing commitment on the part of the state and the legislature to address infrastructure needs in the area. At the urging of the senator, the full legislature endorsed his effort to increase transportation dollars to parishes with growing populations. Senate Bill 132 by Sen. Erdey requires the use of the 2010 Census figures to determine how Louisiana's Parish Transportation Fund dollars are divided among the parishes, resulting in additional transportation dollars for both Livingston and East Baton Rouge Parishes.

In addition, the state construction budget detailed in House Bill 2 includes dollars for infrastructure needs in the district including:

- \$600,000 for Hooper Road Sewer Improvements
- \$900,000 for the Cook Road extension project
- \$1 million for the widening of Juban Road.

Also, the on-going study of the extension of Hooper Road across the Amite River will continue.

In the final days of the session, legislators united and acted quickly to address the tragic murder of two state insurance department employees, gunned down while investigating the operations of a New Iberia insurance company. Lawmakers approved Senate Bill 271 by Sen. Erdey to make sure the survivors of the slain investigators would be eligible for state benefits available to public safety employees killed in the line of duty. The bill extends the benefits to those public employees who are slain while investigating potential criminal activities.

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