

YOUR VIEWS

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Didn't give up

Winston Churchill once said, "Never, never, never give up." After nearly six legislative sessions of trying to level the playing field between El Paso and Santa Teresa, myself and the entire Texas Warehouse Association almost gave up. State Rep. Norma Chávez did not.

Bordering states such as New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Louisiana do not impose taxes on certain goods stored in a warehouse, but Texas has. As result, Santa Teresa's warehouse industry has boomed, while El Paso's has lagged.

According to a 2003 Perryman Group Study, this tax was costing Texas 27,000 jobs.

Texas voters supported the constitutional amendment by Sen. Robert Duncan that would allow local governments to offer an exemption on goods-in-transit stored in warehouses. It took six ses-

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sions to pass the enabling legislation. Norma's tenacity, can-do attitude and legislative strategy resulted in the passage of HB 621 by Chávez/Duncan this session.

As result of her legislative skill, Norma got it done. Thanks to her, Texas can compete with other states, create more jobs and the El Paso Warehouse Industry will not have to move to New Mexico.

Norma is a voice for the working man and woman and an advocate for business as well.

Jerry Wright, CEO
Brokers Logistics Ltd.