

By: Craddick

H.C.R. No. 122

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Don Ward is retiring as founding executive director
2 of the One-Call Board of Texas following 26 years of distinguished
3 service in that role; and

4 WHEREAS, The One-Call Board of Texas, formally known as the
5 Texas Underground Facility Notification Corporation, was created
6 to implement and oversee the statewide "One-Call" excavation
7 notification system, established in 1997 through passage of the
8 Underground Facility Damage Prevention and Safety Act; also known
9 as the 811 Call Before You Dig Act, this legislation protects Texans
10 when excavations are done near utility lines by requiring utilities
11 to mark their facilities and obliging excavators to call 811 before
12 they begin their work; and

13 WHEREAS, Don Ward has served as executive director since the
14 inception of the One-Call Board; throughout his tenure, he has
15 worked diligently and effectively with its governor-appointed
16 members, utilities, and notification centers to ensure the safety
17 of the public; and

18 WHEREAS, A native of Bryan, Mr. Ward grew up in Houston and
19 graduated from Lamar High School; he transferred from Texas A&M
20 University to Sam Houston State University to pursue his rodeo
21 career in bull riding, and he was eventually inducted into the Texas
22 Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame; for his graduate studies, he returned to
23 Texas A&M; and

24 WHEREAS, In 1980, Mr. Ward was recruited by the Brazos County

1 district judge to serve as an aide and driver for Senator Bill
2 Moore's campaign; the following year, he joined the Legislative
3 Budget Board as a budget examiner; he went on to work in public
4 policy advocacy for a number of associations, among them the Texas
5 Good Roads Association, the Texas Veterinary Medical Association,
6 and the Texas Pest Control Association; and

7 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Mr. Ward benefits from the
8 love and support of his wife, Leslie Ward; they are the proud
9 parents of three children, and he plans to spend his retirement on
10 their ranch enjoying the company of his 10 grandchildren; and

11 WHEREAS, Through his longstanding commitment to the vital
12 mission of the One-Call Board, Don Ward has contributed
13 significantly to the safety and well-being of his fellow Texans,
14 and as he embarks on the next exciting chapter of his life, he may
15 indeed reflect with pride on his accomplishments; now, therefore,
16 be it

17 RESOLVED, That the 88th Legislature of the State of Texas
18 hereby congratulate Don Ward on his retirement as executive
19 director of the One-Call Board of Texas and extend to him sincere
20 best wishes for continued happiness; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for Mr. Ward as an expression of high regard by the Texas
23 House of Representatives and Senate.