

By: Hunter

H.R. No. 491

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Texas Bays and Estuaries Day at the State Capitol is
2 taking place on March 7, 2023, to raise awareness of the critical
3 importance of our state's precious coastal water resources; and

4 WHEREAS, The Texas coast is home to nearly 7 million people
5 across 18 counties; treasured by citizens throughout the state, it
6 spans over 3,000 miles of bay shorelines and includes coastal
7 prairies, saltmarsh wetlands, beaches, dunes, estuaries, and other
8 ecosystems; and

9 WHEREAS, The eight major bay systems of Texas, Sabine Lake,
10 Galveston Bay, Matagorda Bay, San Antonio Bay, Aransas Bay, Corpus
11 Christi Bay, Upper Laguna Madre, and Lower Laguna Madre, connect
12 inflows from inland streams and rivers with oceanic tidal waters
13 from the Gulf of Mexico; this process results in the creation of
14 estuaries composed of freshwater mixed with saltwater; and

15 WHEREAS, Our state's bays and estuaries serve as habitats for
16 numerous species of fish and other wildlife, including endangered
17 species, and contain coastal lands that are protected under the
18 federal Coastal Zone Management Act; the coast's diverse natural
19 environments also provide outstanding opportunities for nature
20 enthusiasts and preservationists from all over the world; and

21 WHEREAS, Ranching, farming, fishing, and petroleum are among
22 the industries that operate along the Texas coast; bays and
23 estuaries help sustain waterborne commerce, energy and chemical
24 manufacturing businesses, military operations, commercial fishing,

1 and recreational activities and tourism, all of which contribute
2 significantly to our state's economy; these areas also play a vital
3 role in protecting communities from storms and floods and in
4 providing shoreline stabilization and erosion prevention, thus
5 helping to mitigate environmental damage while safeguarding lives
6 and property; and

7 WHEREAS, The bays and estuaries of the Texas coastline are of
8 tremendous environmental, recreational, and economic value to the
9 Lone Star State, in addition to offering incomparable scenic beauty
10 for all Texans to enjoy, and Texas Bays and Estuaries Day presents a
11 welcome opportunity to highlight the necessity of preserving and
12 maintaining these areas for the benefit of future generations; now,
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
15 Legislature hereby recognize March 7, 2023, as Texas Bays and
16 Estuaries Day at the State Capitol and commend all those who are
17 working to protect and preserve the bays and estuaries of the Texas
18 coast.