

By: Flores

H.C.R. No. 16

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The State of Texas has customarily recognized a
2 variety of official state symbols as tangible representations of
3 the state's historical and cultural heritage; and

4 WHEREAS, Like the square dance, the guitar, and the rodeo,
5 tortilla chips and salsa are deeply rooted in Texas tradition and
6 enjoy popularity throughout the length and breadth of the state;
7 stocked in countless kitchens, they are brought out for solitary
8 refreshment and for social gatherings of virtually every
9 description and level of formality; and

10 WHEREAS, The primary ingredients of chips and salsa have
11 nourished the people of this land for centuries; corn, peppers, and
12 tomatoes all originated in the Western Hemisphere and were being
13 cultivated by Native Americans along the Rio Grande when the
14 Spaniards, who introduced onions to the New World, arrived in
15 Texas; tortillas, developed in prehistoric times by the Indians of
16 Latin America, have likewise long been a staple in parts of the
17 state; and

18 WHEREAS, In addition to their traditional importance as a
19 foodstuff, peppers, onions, and tomatoes have played a significant
20 role in Texas folk medicine, and their value in fighting illness is
21 being increasingly recognized by modern science; and

22 WHEREAS, Together with corn, these three plants also play a
23 notable economic role in the state; in recent years, onions have
24 ranked as the number one cash truck crop in Texas, while corn has

1 accounted for about five percent of the state's agricultural
2 economy; nationwide in 2000, Texas ranked 1st in the production of
3 jalapeño peppers, 4th in the production of onions, and 16th in the
4 production of tomatoes, while a 2002 report ranks the state 10th in
5 the production of corn; and

6 WHEREAS, The importance of these crops in Texas is reflected
7 by such celebrations as the annual Corn Festival in Holland, Hot
8 Pepper Festival in Palestine, and Tomato Festival in Jacksonville,
9 as well as onion festivals in Nooday, Presidio, and Weslaco; salsa
10 itself enjoys a starring role at the Three Rivers Salsa Festival and
11 at other hotly contested competitions in Houston and Austin; and

12 WHEREAS, Spectacular sales figures underscore what Texans
13 already know: that tortilla chips and salsa enjoy popularity
14 ratings in the stratosphere; moreover, Texas chip and salsa plants
15 now command a major share of their respective national markets;
16 joining the state's oldest and largest salsa manufacturer, which
17 began production in San Antonio in 1947, smaller new salsa firms
18 continue to spring up, often inspired by a cherished family recipe
19 and encouraged by Texans' insatiable demand for this zesty
20 concoction; and

21 WHEREAS, Folk foods that have become commercial giants, chips
22 and salsa stand out among Texas snacks because of their historic
23 origins and universal appeal; embraced today by Texans of every
24 ethnic background, they constitute a much-savored part of our
25 shared cultural identity; now, therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
27 hereby designate tortilla chips and salsa as the official State

1 Snack of Texas.