

1-1 By: Gallego (Senate Sponsor - Madla) H.C.R. No. 186  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 5, 2003;  
1-3 May 7, 2003, read first time and referred to Committee on  
1-4 International Relations and Trade; May 23, 2003, reported  
1-5 favorably by the following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 23, 2003, sent  
1-6 to printer.)

1-7 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-8 WHEREAS, In 1962, Pub. L. No. 87-525 authorized the  
1-9 construction of an international bridge across the Rio Grande to  
1-10 join Heath Canyon in Texas with the village of La Linda, Coahuila,  
1-11 Mexico, for the purpose of transporting refined ore into the United  
1-12 States from nearby mills in Mexico and to one day facilitate the  
1-13 movement of tourists interested in visiting the Sierra del Carmen  
1-14 mountain areas across from Big Bend National Park; and

1-15 WHEREAS, Since the bridge was constructed, the Texas  
1-16 Department of Transportation has, without interruption, maintained  
1-17 Farm-to-Market Road 2627 as a paved two-lane highway for a 28-mile  
1-18 stretch connecting the bridge to United States Highway 385, which  
1-19 leads from that junction southward to Big Bend National Park and  
1-20 northward 40 miles to Marathon and United States Highway 90; and

1-21 WHEREAS, La Linda Bridge, also known as the Hallie Stillwell  
1-22 Memorial Bridge, is still in place and is in good repair but cannot  
1-23 be crossed by vehicles or pedestrians because of barriers and the  
1-24 placement of "no trespassing" signs at the bridge since 1997  
1-25 pursuant to orders issued by the governments of the United States of  
1-26 America and the Republic of Mexico; and

1-27 WHEREAS, The La Linda international crossing is the only  
1-28 bridge structure in place and the only point of entry authorized by  
1-29 public law between the United States ports of entry at Presidio and  
1-30 Del Rio, a distance of 385 miles; and

1-31 WHEREAS, The principal owner of the United States section of  
1-32 the international bridge at La Linda, the National Parks  
1-33 Conservation Association, is prepared to donate its interest in the  
1-34 bridge and associated properties to the State of Texas through the  
1-35 General Land Office so that the bridge may be reopened and operated  
1-36 as a legal border crossing; and

1-37 WHEREAS, The tourism industries serving scenic and  
1-38 recreational areas joined by this bridge, including the Big Bend  
1-39 mountains of Texas and the Sierra del Carmen mountains of Northwest  
1-40 Coahuila, wish to promote, accommodate, and economically benefit  
1-41 from cross border tourism but are unable to implement those  
1-42 objectives if the La Linda crossing is not functioning; and

1-43 WHEREAS, The safety of tourists wishing to enjoy the area,  
1-44 the binational scientific cooperation called for under existing  
1-45 international agreements, and the security and public safety of  
1-46 communities and citizens on both sides of the international border  
1-47 would be enhanced by a functioning border crossing at La Linda; and

1-48 WHEREAS, The State of Coahuila and the commissioners court of  
1-49 Brewster County, respectively represented by the Instituto de  
1-50 Turismo and the Big Bend Border Council and joined by a coalition of  
1-51 local residents and the Big Bend National Park Superintendent, have  
1-52 twice requested that the Binational Bridges and Border Crossings  
1-53 working group, which is convened semiannually by the United States  
1-54 Department of State and the Mexican Secretaria de Relaciones  
1-55 Exteriores, take the necessary actions to have the bridge and  
1-56 border crossing at La Linda reopened by the United States and  
1-57 Mexican federal governments; and

1-58 WHEREAS, The working group, composed of United States and  
1-59 Mexican federal authorities responsible for authorizing  
1-60 international ports of entry and required inspections along the  
1-61 international boundary, will convene again in the coming months to  
1-62 consider action on either reopening the bridge at La Linda or  
1-63 ordering its removal; and

1-64 WHEREAS, It is in the economic, cultural, and security

2-1 interest of the State of Texas and the homeland security interest of  
2-2 the United States of America to have a functioning border crossing  
2-3 station under the management and control of trained and equipped  
2-4 law enforcement and public safety officials in the extensive area  
2-5 known as the Big Bend; now, therefore, be it

2-6 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas  
2-7 hereby express its support and encouragement for the reopening of  
2-8 the bridge and border crossing at La Linda to accommodate trade and  
2-9 tourism between Texas and Coahuila, Mexico, and to better protect  
2-10 residents of both countries and secure the protection of our nation  
2-11 from threats that might be associated with the illegal crossing of  
2-12 individuals or materials with a lethal intent; and, be it further

2-13 RESOLVED, That the legislature hereby urge the General Land  
2-14 Office to proceed expeditiously with the due diligence needed to  
2-15 make a determination regarding acceptance of an ownership interest  
2-16 in La Linda Bridge by the State of Texas; and, be it further

2-17 RESOLVED, That the legislature hereby urge that the governor,  
2-18 the Texas Department of Transportation, the secretary of state, the  
2-19 Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas, the Parks and  
2-20 Wildlife Department, the Texas Department of Economic Development,  
2-21 the Texas Historical Commission, and other appropriate state  
2-22 agencies render encouragement and assistance to the General Land  
2-23 Office as it proceeds in this matter and render encouragement and  
2-24 assistance as well to Brewster County and to private and public  
2-25 advocates for tourism in the Big Bend in their efforts to develop a  
2-26 regional tourism economy in conjunction with a reopened bridge at  
2-27 La Linda; and, be it further

2-28 RESOLVED, That the legislature hereby call upon the United  
2-29 States Department of State to communicate the interest of the State  
2-30 of Texas in this matter to the government of the Republic of Mexico  
2-31 and to all other parties participating in decisions relating to  
2-32 either reopening or removing the bridge at La Linda; and, be it  
2-33 further

2-34 RESOLVED, That the legislature hereby respectfully  
2-35 memorialize the Congress of the United States to initiate whatever  
2-36 actions are needed to reopen La Linda Bridge as a border crossing;  
2-37 and, be it further

2-38 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official  
2-39 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to  
2-40 the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the  
2-41 senate of the United States Congress, and to all members of the  
2-42 Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this  
2-43 resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a  
2-44 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

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