

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The United States and Mexico created the North  
2 American Development Bank (NADB) to provide financing for  
3 environmental infrastructure projects, particularly those related  
4 to water supply, wastewater treatment, and solid waste management  
5 along their common border; and

6           WHEREAS, Since its inception in 1995, NADB has financed 57  
7 environmental infrastructure projects representing \$1.4 billion in  
8 border region improvements, a substantial return on the bank's \$494  
9 million investment; and

10           WHEREAS, NADB established the Border Environment  
11 Infrastructure Fund (BEIF) in 1997 to receive and administer grants  
12 from other institutions, such as the U.S. Environmental Protection  
13 Agency (EPA), that can be combined with loans and guaranties to  
14 facilitate project financing; and

15           WHEREAS, To date, BEIF has received \$336 million from EPA's  
16 Border Fund, and this contribution is vital to making water and  
17 wastewater projects affordable, especially for the smallest and  
18 poorest communities; and

19           WHEREAS, Congress increased the Border Fund to \$75 million in  
20 fiscal year 2000, and this level of funding was again recommended  
21 for fiscal year 2003; however, the Border Fund received a  
22 congressional appropriation of only \$50 million; and

23           WHEREAS, Reductions in the Border Fund and subsequent revenue  
24 losses to BEIF seriously undercut NADB's ability to finance water

1 and wastewater infrastructure projects that are essential to  
2 environmental quality and the well-being of residents on both sides  
3 of the border; now, therefore, be it

4       RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas  
5 hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to  
6 reinstate funding for the EPA Border Fund to \$75 million for fiscal  
7 year 2004 and to appropriate sufficient funds in subsequent years  
8 to address environmental infrastructure needs in the border region;  
9 and, be it further

10       RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official  
11 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to  
12 the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the  
13 senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the  
14 Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this  
15 resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a  
16 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

Chavez

---

President of the Senate

---

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 204 was adopted by the House on May 10, 2003, by a non-record vote.

---

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 204 was adopted by the Senate on May 28, 2003, by a viva-voce vote.

---

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

---

Governor