

By: Chavez

H.C.R. No. 204

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.