

1-1 By: Chavez (Senate Sponsor - Lucio) H.C.R. No. 204
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 12, 2003;
1-3 May 13, 2003, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 International Relations and Trade; May 22, 2003, reported
1-5 favorably by the following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 22, 2003, sent
1-6 to printer.)

1-7 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-8 WHEREAS, The United States and Mexico created the North
1-9 American Development Bank (NADB) to provide financing for
1-10 environmental infrastructure projects, particularly those related
1-11 to water supply, wastewater treatment, and solid waste management
1-12 along their common border; and

1-13 WHEREAS, Since its inception in 1995, NADB has financed 57
1-14 environmental infrastructure projects representing \$1.4 billion in
1-15 border region improvements, a substantial return on the bank's \$494
1-16 million investment; and

1-17 WHEREAS, NADB established the Border Environment
1-18 Infrastructure Fund (BEIF) in 1997 to receive and administer grants
1-19 from other institutions, such as the U.S. Environmental Protection
1-20 Agency (EPA), that can be combined with loans and guaranties to
1-21 facilitate project financing; and

1-22 WHEREAS, To date, BEIF has received \$336 million from EPA's
1-23 Border Fund, and this contribution is vital to making water and
1-24 wastewater projects affordable, especially for the smallest and
1-25 poorest communities; and

1-26 WHEREAS, Congress increased the Border Fund to \$75 million in
1-27 fiscal year 2000, and this level of funding was again recommended
1-28 for fiscal year 2003; however, the Border Fund received a
1-29 congressional appropriation of only \$50 million; and

1-30 WHEREAS, Reductions in the Border Fund and subsequent revenue
1-31 losses to BEIF seriously undercut NADB's ability to finance water
1-32 and wastewater infrastructure projects that are essential to
1-33 environmental quality and the well-being of residents on both sides
1-34 of the border; now, therefore, be it

1-35 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
1-36 hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to
1-37 reinstate funding for the EPA Border Fund to \$75 million for fiscal
1-38 year 2004 and to appropriate sufficient funds in subsequent years
1-39 to address environmental infrastructure needs in the border region;
1-40 and, be it further

1-41 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
1-42 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
1-43 the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the
1-44 senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the
1-45 Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this
1-46 resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a
1-47 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

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