

By: Gallego

H.C.R. No. 208

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Big Bend National Park was officially established on
2 June 12, 1944, six months after Texas Governor Coke Stevenson
3 signed a deed of cession giving the National Park Service (NPS),
4 United States Department of the Interior, exclusive jurisdiction
5 over the park; and

6 WHEREAS, Exclusive jurisdiction, whereby the federal
7 government possesses all of the authority of the state, was ceded by
8 the State of Texas at the request of then-Secretary of the Interior
9 Harold Ickes; and

10 WHEREAS, The NPS also has jurisdiction over a 196-mile
11 section of the Rio Grande designated by congress as part of the
12 National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and administered by Big Bend
13 National Park; and

14 WHEREAS, The General Authorities Act of 1976 required the NPS
15 to seek to acquire concurrent legislative jurisdiction for all
16 units of the National Park System to allow the United States and the
17 states to exercise joint regulatory authority; and

18 WHEREAS, Concurrent legislative jurisdiction provides for
19 more efficient conduct of state and federal law enforcement
20 functions, improving visitor safety and resource protection at
21 national parks; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
23 hereby respectfully request the National Park Service, United
24 States Department of the Interior, to cede exclusive jurisdiction

1 over Big Bend National Park and the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River
2 to the State of Texas; and, be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the legislature also respectfully request the
4 governor of the State of Texas, simultaneously with the acceptance
5 of exclusive jurisdiction, to cede concurrent legislative
6 jurisdiction to the National Park Service for Big Bend National
7 Park and the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River; and, be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
9 copies of this resolution to the secretary of the United States
10 Department of the Interior, director of the National Park Service,
11 and governor of the State of Texas with the request that this
12 resolution be officially entered into the record as a memorial to
13 the United States Department of the Interior, National Park
14 Service, and Texas governor.