

By: Gallego

H.C.R. No. 208

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 Congress of the United States to
24 direct the National Park Service, United States Department of the

1 Interior, to acquire concurrent legislative jurisdiction for Big
2 Bend National Park and the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River; and, be
3 it further

4 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
5 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
6 the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the
7 senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the
8 Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this
9 resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a
10 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.