

By: McReynolds

H.R. No. 281

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Founded in Lufkin more than seven decades ago, the
2 Atkinson Candy Company has long fed the cravings of many Americans
3 with its distinctive sugary treats, and one of its most popular
4 candies, the Chick-O-Stick, remains a particular favorite among
5 Lone Star residents; and

6 WHEREAS, The roots of this venerable company extend back to
7 1932, during the Great Depression, when 25-year-old Basil E.
8 Atkinson launched a small candy and tobacco wholesale business; six
9 years later he began to manufacture his own candy, laying the
10 foundation for a multimillion-dollar company that is currently
11 ranked among the nation's top 10 suppliers of Halloween
12 confections; and

13 WHEREAS, Employing more than 150 workers, the Atkinson Candy
14 Company is the largest candy company in the state; it is now run by
15 the founder's grandson, Eric Atkinson, and uses many of the
16 original machines to produce its nostalgic line of sweets; and

17 WHEREAS, The company's best-selling treat is clearly the
18 Chick-O-Stick, a crunchy orange stick made with ground roasted
19 peanuts, sugar, and toasted coconut; in 2000, the company produced
20 more than 256 million of the candies and sold them across the United
21 States and in several other countries; Atkinson also produces
22 mints, Peanut Butter Bars, and a coconut peanut brittle; and

23 WHEREAS, The candy industry faces many challenges, including
24 globalization and the high domestic cost of sugar, which are

1 forcing many businesses to move out of the country; despite those
2 concerns, the Atkinson family is firmly committed to keeping their
3 production in Texas, and their dedication to the state, together
4 with their commitment to quality, has won them the respect of their
5 industry and the loyalty of employees and customers alike; and

6 WHEREAS, With deep roots in the Lone Star State, the Atkinson
7 Candy Company has cheered generations of Texans with the unique and
8 enduring Chick-O-Stick, and it is indeed a pleasure to recognize
9 both the company and its famous product at this time; now,
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
12 Legislature hereby honor the Atkinson Candy Company and its popular
13 Chick-O-Stick for their significant contributions to the economic
14 vitality of East Texas and for the pure pleasure they have brought
15 to countless citizens nationwide; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
17 prepared for the Atkinson Candy Company as an expression of high
18 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.