By: Shapleigh S.C.R. No. 20

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Mexico is the United States' second-largest trading partner, and 76 percent of all United States trade with Mexico passes through Texas, according to the Center for Transportation Research at The University of Texas at Austin; and

WHEREAS, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration records confirm that Texas has seven of the nation's 10 busiest southern border crossings, and every day 12,000 trucks transporting goods valued at \$290 million use Texas ports of entry and border commercial zones; and

WHEREAS, Mexican trucks can travel within the interior of the United States under terms of the North American Free Trade Agreement, and as of January 2003, the United States Department of Transportation had received more than 130 applications to exercise this travel authority once associated legal issues are resolved and the border is opened to long-haul carriers; and

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Transportation reports a direct correlation between the condition of Mexican trucks entering the United States and the level of inspection resources at the border; and

WHEREAS, Texas has no permanent border safety inspection facilities to ensure that vehicles and cargo entering the United States comply with state and federal safety standards; rather, inspections in Texas are confined to eight temporary state

- 1 facilities and to federal customs lots; and
- WHEREAS, The 76th Legislature passed legislation in 1999
- 3 relating to the establishment of one-stop border inspection
- 4 stations where all federal, state, and municipal agencies that
- 5 regulate cross-border traffic could be located in one place; and
- 6 WHEREAS, One-stop inspection stations would provide a single
- 7 point of contact between motor carriers and government regulators
- 8 and a single point of information about regulatory requirements;
- 9 and
- 10 WHEREAS, The stations also would prevent duplication of state
- 11 and federal inspections and facilitate links in government
- 12 information systems; and
- WHEREAS, Sharing the same location, eliminating redundant
- 14 inspections, and using modern technology should reduce truck
- 15 crossing times to 10 minutes, which is the concept behind one-stop
- 16 border vehicle inspection facilities; and
- 17 WHEREAS, Each municipality where the one-stop facilities
- 18 will be located is unique and has different concerns that must be
- 19 addressed, such as the location of the facility, whether
- 20 international commerce would be impeded, whether traffic
- 21 congestion and pollution would be increased, whether all incoming
- 22 traffic would be treated the same, and whether local participation
- 23 would be prioritized; and
- 24 WHEREAS, Specifically regarding the City of Laredo, federal
- 25 and state entities should work in collaboration with municipalities
- 26 and enter into agreements that state that the location, plans, and
- implementation strategy for the proposed facilities are acceptable

- 1 to all parties involved; and
- WHEREAS, Decisions made in Washington, D.C., in the coming
- 3 months will define border commerce for the next 10 years, affecting
- 4 not only trade but also highway damage prevention, environmental
- 5 protection, and drug interdiction; now, therefore, be it
- 6 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
- 7 hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to fund
- 8 one-stop border vehicle inspection facilities; and, be it further
- 9 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
- 10 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
- 11 the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the
- 12 senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the
- 13 Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this
- 14 resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a
- 15 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.