

By: Shapleigh

S.C.R. No. 20

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

10 WHEREAS, Mexican trucks can travel within the U.S. interior
11 under terms of the North American Free Trade Agreement, and as of
12 January 2003, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) had
13 received more than 130 applications to exercise this travel
14 authority once associated legal issues are resolved and the border
15 is opened to long-haul carriers; and

16 WHEREAS, USDOT reports a direct correlation between the
17 condition of Mexican trucks entering the U.S. and the level of
18 inspection resources at the border; and

19 WHEREAS, Texas has no permanent border safety inspection
20 facilities to ensure that vehicles and cargo entering the U.S.
21 comply with state and federal safety standards; rather, inspections
22 in Texas are confined to eight temporary state facilities and to
23 federal customs lots; and

24 WHEREAS, The 76th Texas Legislature passed legislation in

1 1999 relating to the establishment of one-stop border inspection
2 stations where all federal, state, and municipal agencies that
3 regulate cross-border traffic could be located in one place; and

4 WHEREAS, One-stop inspection stations would provide a single
5 point of contact between motor carriers and government regulators
6 and a single point of information about regulatory requirements;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, The stations also would prevent duplication of state
9 and federal inspections and facilitate links in government
10 information systems; and

11 WHEREAS, Sharing the same location, eliminating redundant
12 inspections, and using modern technology should reduce truck
13 crossing times to 10 minutes, which is the concept behind one-stop
14 border vehicle inspection facilities; and

15 WHEREAS, Decisions made in Washington in the coming months
16 will define border commerce for the next 10 years, affecting not
17 only trade but also highway damage prevention, environmental
18 protection, and drug interdiction; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
20 hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to fund
21 one-stop border vehicle inspection facilities; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
23 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
24 the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the
25 senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the
26 Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this
27 resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a

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1 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.