

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Legislature of the State of Texas is pleased to
3 recognize the largest live oak tree in Texas, a 62-foot-high
4 specimen, 10.25 feet wide, located in the San Bernard National
5 Wildlife Refuge in Brazoria County; and

6 WHEREAS, The Texas Forest Service has officially crowned the
7 tree the new state champion; found deep within the forest of the
8 wildlife refuge by federal wildlife biologist Michael Lange, the
9 tree has been added to the state's Big Tree Registry, which is a
10 record that has been kept since the 1940s of the largest of Texas'
11 250 tree species; and

12 WHEREAS, The tree replaces the 43-foot-tall, nine-foot-wide
13 giant oak in Goose Island State Park, which had held the title of
14 largest live oak in Texas since 1966; and

15 WHEREAS, The Lone Star State is home to 69 national
16 champions, which places it behind only two other states for having
17 the most oversized tree species; many of the Texas species exist
18 nowhere else; and

19 WHEREAS, The San Bernard live oak is estimated to be more than
20 200 years old and has likely been nurtured by the nutrient-rich
21 soils laid down in the forest each time the Brazos, San Bernard, and
22 Colorado rivers flood; it is in a densely wooded area surrounded by
23 many large oaks which probably protected the tree from being
24 knocked down in the 1900 hurricane; and

1 WHEREAS, There is both historical significance and an
2 environmental value to large trees, since they are credited with
3 controlling air pollution and purifying water; the biggest of any
4 species has a uniqueness that people are drawn to, and the United
5 States Fish and Wildlife Service hopes to soon start tours to the
6 largest live oak in Texas; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
8 hereby pay tribute to the live oak champion in Texas located in the
9 San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge; and, be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be prepared in honor
11 of this tree and its discovery.