

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 353

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, The candy industry faces many challenges, including globalization and the high domestic cost of sugar, which are forcing many businesses to move out of the country; despite those concerns, the Atkinson family is firmly committed to keeping their production in Texas, and their dedication to the state, together with their commitment to quality, has won them the respect of their industry and the loyalty of employees and customers alike; and

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

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

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RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for the Atkinson Candy Company as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Staples

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 12, 2003.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate