

By: Menendez

H.C.R. No. 36

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, Figures for May 2006 from the American Automobile  
2 Association (AAA) show retail gasoline prices for regular unleaded  
3 in the United States to have risen from \$2.22 to \$2.92 per gallon in  
4 only one year's time, with much of that increase occurring in the  
5 month of April alone; and

6           WHEREAS, While Hurricane Katrina can be blamed for the  
7 gasoline price spike that occurred last September, the current  
8 climb back toward that spike level appears to be driven largely by  
9 the oil industry's appetite for profits without regard to the U.S.  
10 consumer; and

11           WHEREAS, Increasing gasoline prices, and increasing utility  
12 bills for electricity and home heating, demonstrate a long-term  
13 imperative for this nation to diversify its energy base, explore  
14 alternative sources, and conserve as much as possible, while  
15 addressing in the short-term some of the immediate harmful effects  
16 on the pocketbooks of American families; and

17           WHEREAS, United States Senator Robert Menendez of New Jersey  
18 has proposed a 60-day suspension of the 18.4 cents per gallon  
19 federal gasoline tax to be funded by repealing three unnecessary  
20 tax breaks currently enjoyed by oil and gas companies and by  
21 eliminating royalty relief and other production incentives enacted  
22 as part of the 2005 federal energy bill; and

23           WHEREAS, Texas legislators support both the short-term  
24 remedy and long-term measures, which can unite Americans in the

1 confidence that we are taking charge to address energy matters  
2 comprehensively; now, therefore, be it

3         RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas,  
4 3rd Called Session, hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the  
5 United States to work with oil companies to lower prices paid at  
6 the gasoline pump and to support as part of that effort the proposal  
7 by Senator Robert Menendez for a temporary suspension of the  
8 federal gasoline tax; and, be it further

9         RESOLVED, That the legislature urge the congress to fund  
10 energy efficiency initiatives, research in renewable energy,  
11 federal fleet purchases of alternative-fuel vehicles, and  
12 similarly worthy programs and to provide Americans with incentives  
13 toward better energy efficiency, greater energy conservation, and  
14 other measures to reduce national energy consumption; and, be it  
15 further

16         RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official  
17 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to  
18 the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the  
19 senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the  
20 Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this  
21 resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a  
22 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.