

By: Cook of Colorado

H.C.R. No. 107

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The week of April 4 through 8, 2005, is Wildfire  
2 Awareness Week, a statewide campaign to inform Texas residents  
3 about how to protect themselves while living in neighborhoods near  
4 wildland areas; and

5 WHEREAS, Members of 1,800 fire departments across the State  
6 of Texas work together to suppress more than 10,000 fires each year;  
7 with the support of the Texas Forest Service and the Rural Volunteer  
8 Fire Department Assistance Program, these firefighters effectively  
9 battle wildfires that threaten the health and well-being of all  
10 Texans; and

11 WHEREAS, The Texas Forest Service has a nationally recognized  
12 fire prevention program, and it responds to an average of 1,000  
13 wildfires each year; it also provides assessment and monitoring of  
14 weather, fuels, and historic data to predict fire danger and risks;  
15 the forest service established the Texas Wildfire Protection Plan  
16 in 1998, which further strengthened its relationship with fire  
17 departments across the state, and it offers training and classes to  
18 educate homeowners who live in critical areas about how to protect  
19 themselves and their residences; and

20 WHEREAS, In its capacity building programs, the forest  
21 service greatly benefits from the cooperation of the Texas  
22 insurance industry, the fireworks industry, and municipal and  
23 industrial fire departments and their support of the Rural VFD  
24 Assistance Program, the Rural VFD Insurance Program, and the

1 Helping Hands Program, respectively; and

2 WHEREAS, Since its inception in 2002, the Rural VFD  
3 Assistance Program has increased the firefighting capacities of  
4 more than 1,600 volunteer fire departments across the state; it has  
5 provided \$40.5 million in grants for trucks, equipment,  
6 communications systems, and training programs, and it has awarded  
7 \$1.5 million in workers' compensation insurance to volunteer  
8 firefighters; and

9 WHEREAS, As the state grows, more homes are being built in  
10 forested and wildland environments in areas with poor access and  
11 limited water supplies; Wildfire Awareness Week will call attention  
12 to serious issues and will make an important contribution toward  
13 safeguarding lives and property; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas  
15 hereby recognize Wildfire Awareness Week from April 4 through 8,  
16 2005, and commend the Texas Forest Service and members of the Rural  
17 Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program and fire departments  
18 across the state for their invaluable efforts to protect their  
19 fellow Texans.