

By: Keel

H.R. No. 1553

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Architects Robert Jackson and Michael McElhaney of  
2 Austin received a prestigious honor when their design of the Warren  
3 Skaaren Environmental Learning Center (ELC) at Westcave Preserve  
4 received the Award of Excellence at the National American Institute  
5 of Architects/Committee on Architecture for Education Conference  
6 in Washington, D.C., on February 9, 2005; and

7           WHEREAS, Awarded by an established group of architects,  
8 professionals, and educators concerned with the design of  
9 educational facilities, the award considers three criteria in its  
10 selection: a design's integration of form and function, its  
11 enhancement of the client's educational program, and its  
12 collaborative and educational support of the school community and  
13 its students; and

14           WHEREAS, Owned by the Lower Colorado River Authority and  
15 operated by the nonprofit Westcave Preserve Corporation, the ELC is  
16 a learning center located in western Travis County at the Westcave  
17 Preserve, which hosts public programs and sponsors integrated  
18 exhibits demonstrating the relationships between living things and  
19 their environments; and

20           WHEREAS, The 30-acre natural preserve is a unique  
21 geographical environment and home to a number of plant and animal  
22 species, including the endangered golden-cheeked warbler; to  
23 respect this delicate habitat, the award-winning design team  
24 created a facility using sustainable materials, including recycled

1 steel, rainwater collection, and a concrete floor made of recycled  
2 power plant fly-ash content; the 3,000-square-foot building serves  
3 as a visitors center, a classroom facility, and a gateway to the  
4 nature preserve; and

5 WHEREAS, Shaping our environment while respecting existing,  
6 natural surroundings requires an acute sensitivity to the way  
7 living systems thrive; Mr. Jackson's and Mr. McElhaney's design  
8 respects the client's needs and maintains a happy relationship  
9 between the natural and man-made worlds, and it is a pleasure to  
10 join their peers in recognizing this extraordinary work; now,  
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
13 Legislature hereby congratulate Jackson & McElhaney Architects for  
14 the award-winning design of the Warren Skaaren Environmental  
15 Learning Center at Westcave Preserve and extend to these talented  
16 architects sincere best wishes for continued professional success  
17 and achievement; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
19 prepared for Mr. Jackson and Mr. McElhaney as an expression of high  
20 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.