

By: Chavez

H.R. No. 2068

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Minuteman Project is a group of volunteer
2 civilians who have set up a patrol to monitor a portion of the
3 United States border with Mexico for illegal immigration; during
4 April, 2005, a few hundred volunteers conducted 24-hour patrols of
5 a portion of the Arizona border; and

6 WHEREAS, The Minuteman Project plans to begin patrols along
7 the Rio Grande in South Texas starting in October, 2005, despite the
8 expressed reservations of both United States and Texas government
9 officials and agencies and various representatives from Texas
10 border communities; and

11 WHEREAS, Neither racism and bigotry, nor vigilante violence
12 have a place in the State of Texas and therefore the actions of the
13 Minuteman Project should be strongly rebuked by the good people of
14 Texas.

15 WHEREAS, Border communities in Texas rely heavily on tourism
16 and commerce and the free flow of legal cross-border traffic to help
17 support their economies; Minuteman patrols could impede the traffic
18 and negatively affect both tourism and trade along the border; and

19 WHEREAS, While the Arizona patrols took place along a stretch
20 of the border that consists of open, mostly uninhabited desert
21 land, much of the area along the South Texas border is privately
22 owned and some of it is urbanized; an earlier effort to stop illegal
23 immigration on private South Texas ranches in 2003 led to an assault
24 charge against the landowner's representative and a civil lawsuit

1 and settlement; and

2 WHEREAS, During the Minuteman patrols in Arizona in April,
3 United States Border patrol officials said their job was
4 complicated when some of the patrol members set off motion
5 detectors that had been installed to detect illegal immigration;
6 members of law enforcement have said that their jobs, already
7 dangerous because of illegal immigration and drug trafficking, are
8 made more difficult and dangerous by civilian patrols; and

9 WHEREAS, President George W. Bush has stated his opposition
10 to the Minuteman civilian patrols, saying "I'm against vigilantes
11 in the United States of America, I'm for enforcing the law in a
12 rational way"; Commissioner Robert C. Bonner of the United States
13 Customs and Border Protection agency stated that the United States
14 Border Patrol is best qualified and trained to handle border
15 control issues and that civilian patrols could cause not only
16 illegal migrants but also American citizens to be harmed; now,
17 therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the State of
19 Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby urge Governor Rick Perry to oppose
20 the plans of the Minuteman Project to come to Texas and to ask
21 Minuteman Project representatives not to begin patrols of the Texas
22 border with Mexico; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
24 Legislature, hereby encourage, Raymundo Ybarra, American Civil
25 Liberties Union, Ira Glasser Racial Justice Fellow, to monitor the
26 Minuteman Project and to keep this body informed of evolving
27 developments.

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1 RESOLVED, That the chief clerk of the Texas House of
2 Representatives forward a copy of this Resolution to the Governor
3 of the State of Texas.