By: Seliger, Duncan

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S.C.R. No. 8

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Legislature of the State of Texas is pleased to 3 recognize the importance of the chuck wagon to the state's history 4 and culture and to designate it as the official vehicle of Texas; 5 and

6 WHEREAS, The chuck wagon has been important in Texas since 7 the great cattle drives that lasted from the end of the Civil War to 8 the mid-1880s; during that period, approximately 10 million head of 9 cattle were driven along trails all the way from Texas to railheads 10 in Kansas, Missouri, Wyoming, and Canada; and

11 WHEREAS, During the early days of the trail drives, a cowboy 12 relied for survival strictly on what he could carry with him, 13 experiencing hunger and discomfort; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1866, Texas rancher and Civil War veteran Charles 15 Goodnight first used an army surplus Studebaker wagon on the trail 16 drive; the Studebaker proved itself sturdy enough to withstand 17 trail drives that could last up to five months; and

18 WHEREAS, Goodnight then designed and added a chuck box and a 19 boot to the rear of his wagon; this innovation became the prototype 20 for all future chuck wagons; the wagon's box was used to carry the 21 cowboys' bedrolls, guns, personal effects, bulk food supplies, feed 22 for the horses, and other supplies; and

23 WHEREAS, Today The American Chuck Wagon Association has 123 24 registered chuck wagons and over 200 members; the association's

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members are committed to restoring and maintaining chuck wagons with their own resources, which has ensured that the chuck wagon will continue to function as a viable tool on many of our Texas ranches and add to our state's historical and cultural charm; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas 7 hereby acknowledge the important value of preserving the chuck 8 wagon and designate the chuck wagon as the official vehicle of 9 Texas; and, be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be prepared as an 11 expression of esteem from the Texas Legislature.