

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 496

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas welcomes to Austin the Border Blitz delegation, which is comprised of representatives from McAllen, Mission, Pharr, Edinburg, Hidalgo, and Weslaco; and

WHEREAS, The gateway to Northern Mexico, the Rio Grande Valley is one of Texas' most dynamic regions; rich in cultural diversity, the valley is a flyway between North America and South America and offers some of the best birding in the country; the region boasts the third-fastest-growing metropolitan area in the state and attributes its prosperity to agriculture and labor-intensive industry; the valley is also a popular nature tourism area; and

WHEREAS, McAllen, only three miles from the border, is ideal for reaping the benefits of the anticipated growth in commerce and trade between the United States and Mexico; McAllen is rich in Hispanic flavor, and its laid-back, subtropical setting makes it an ideal winter vacation resort; an area fit for year-round farming, fields of vegetables, sugar cane, and onions are always plentiful, while summer brings cotton and winter brings grapefruit and oranges; finally, many United States manufacturers combine with Mexican maquiladoras in the Foreign Trade Zone to create a strong manufacturing presence in McAllen; and

WHEREAS, Edinburg is the Hidalgo County seat and has a burgeoning economy; it was the only Texas city in 2000 to be named a winner of the All-America City Award, the oldest and most prestigious prize accorded communities in the United States; it has been the recipient of two previous All-America City Awards in 1968 and in 1995; Edinburg has shown itself to be a community where concerned citizens can come together to accomplish different goals; it is home to the premier institution of higher learning in the Rio Grande Valley, The University of Texas--Pan American; and

WHEREAS, Located on the Mexican border, the City of Pharr boasts a state-of-the-art international bridge, which connects United States Highway 281 to the city of Reynosa, Mexico; Pharr is blessed with a sunny, warm climate; the city is one of the nation's top producers of winter vegetables and citrus fruits; Pharr attributes its prosperity to a diversified economy, which includes natural gas and a number of growing industries and companies, such as trucking companies and hotels; and

WHEREAS, Situated in southwestern Hidalgo County, the lovely town of Mission proudly calls itself "Home of the Grapefruit," a fitting title for this producer of the famed "Texas Ruby Red" variety; a charming town with much civic pride, Mission celebrates the only all-poinsettia show in the United States and is home to the American Poinsettia Society;

in addition to its agricultural and tourism industries, 30 industrial plants play a vital role in Mission's economic well-being; and

WHEREAS, Located on the Rio Grande in south central Hidalgo County, the City of Hidalgo is proud of its unique cultural flavor, which comes from its proximity to Mexico's border; like other cities in the valley, Hidalgo is a hub for industry and agriculture; its citizens take pride in their community and their culture; and

WHEREAS, The City of Weslaco, centrally located in the Rio Grande Valley, has all of the amenities that provide for an excellent quality of life and is home to nature tourism; Weslaco boasts four sites on the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail and features the Mid-Valley Nature Center and the Frontera Audubon Center; the city will be the site of the World Birding Center; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby welcome the members of the Border Blitz delegation and extend best wishes to them; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared as a memento of their visit to Austin.

Hinojosa, Lucio

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 30, 2005.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate