

1-1 By: Chisum (Senate Sponsor - Seliger) H.C.R. No. 25
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 30, 2007;
1-3 May 2, 2007, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Government Organization; May 15, 2007, reported favorably by the
1-5 following vote: Yeas 4, Nays 0; May 15, 2007, sent to printer.)

1-6 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-7 WHEREAS, Situated in Parmer County, on the high plains of the
1-8 Llano Estacado, the town of Friona has thrived as an agricultural
1-9 center since its founding a century ago; and

1-10 WHEREAS, To celebrate the community's notable ranching and
1-11 farming heritage, civic leaders have inaugurated a highly
1-12 successful annual event that showcases three of the area's primary
1-13 agricultural products; sponsored by the Friona Chamber of Commerce
1-14 and Agriculture and the Texas Cooperative Extension of Parmer
1-15 County, Friona's Cheeseburger Cook-Off and Festival brings
1-16 together an appreciative throng to enjoy one of America's most
1-17 popular meals, a hearty sandwich that reflects the area's bountiful
1-18 harvests of wheat and its robust beef and dairy industries; and

1-19 WHEREAS, Among the pillars that have supported the Parmer
1-20 County economy, cattle raising was the first to be established;
1-21 ranching was introduced within a decade of the county's creation in
1-22 1876, shortly after the Panhandle was opened for settlement; in
1-23 1882, the still-unpopulated county formed part of the 3 million
1-24 acres of public land that was acquired by a group of private
1-25 investors, the Capitol Syndicate, in exchange for financing
1-26 construction of the new state capitol; until it could sell the land
1-27 to settlers, the syndicate operated its vast holdings as a cattle
1-28 ranch, the legendary XIT; and

1-29 WHEREAS, By the late 1890s, steps were being taken to foster
1-30 permanent settlement in the county; in 1898, the Pecos and Northern
1-31 Texas Railway Company was chartered to connect Amarillo and the
1-32 Texas-New Mexico state line, and several switches and town sites
1-33 were developed along the route of the new railroad; Friona, now the
1-34 largest town in the county, originated as a shipping station and was
1-35 subsequently platted in 1906; and

1-36 WHEREAS, During the first three decades of the 20th century,
1-37 Friona saw a growing influx of farmers and the conversion of much
1-38 former rangeland into cultivated fields; contributing to the
1-39 success of ranchers and farmers alike was the ready availability of
1-40 flat, affordable land, a surface soil of sandy loam, and a
1-41 favorable climate; those who have made their living from that land
1-42 have relied on both irrigation, which increased dramatically during
1-43 the 1950s, and dry-land farming techniques; and

1-44 WHEREAS, Since the 1980s, Parmer County has ranked as one of
1-45 the leading agricultural counties in Texas, and its prominence has
1-46 rested in fair measure on the contributions of dedicated,
1-47 forward-looking farmers and cattlemen around Friona; in addition to
1-48 well-established, mixed-crop production, this area enjoys a
1-49 rapidly expanding dairy industry, with some seven dairies in
1-50 operation and six more under construction as of June 2006; and

1-51 WHEREAS, Area cattle- and farm-related businesses include
1-52 one of the largest plants in the meat-packing industry and
1-53 substantial feed-manufacturing and grain-storage facilities, as
1-54 well as cold-storage plants, farm-equipment companies, and a newly
1-55 opened cheese factory; and

1-56 WHEREAS, With such a history and economic foundation,
1-57 citizens of Friona knew they had every ingredient they needed to
1-58 host a classically American jamboree; when the town's Cheeseburger
1-59 Cook-Off and Festival debuted at Friona City Park on July 15, 2006,
1-60 during the community's centennial year, 16 teams took to their
1-61 grills in a spirited contest for culinary laurels; in a show of
1-62 broad-based support for the event, Cargill Meat Solutions donated
1-63 beef for 1,000 patties, Mrs. Baird's donated the buns, the cheese
1-64 factory donated the cheese, Spring Lake Farms donated potatoes for

