

1-1 By: Leibowitz, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Seliger) H.C.R. No. 67
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House March 13, 2007;
1-3 April 3, 2007, read first time and referred to Subcommittee on
1-4 Agriculture, Rural Affairs and Coastal Resources; May 11, 2007,
1-5 reported favorably from Committee on Natural Resources by the
1-6 following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; May 11, 2007, sent to printer.)

1-7 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-8 WHEREAS, The State of Texas continues to endure substantial
1-9 economic losses due to a prolonged drought that has crippled the
1-10 state for nearly two years; the loss of crops and livestock and
1-11 drought-induced fires have left the state's farmers and ranchers in
1-12 desperate need of continued federal assistance to offset the losses
1-13 suffered as a result of this natural disaster; and

1-14 WHEREAS, The drought has cost the state nearly \$2.5 billion
1-15 in total crop loss, more than \$1 billion of which is attributed to a
1-16 decrease in the cotton harvest, the state's number one cash crop; in
1-17 addition, the latest forecasts for 2006 show the state's wheat
1-18 harvest has decreased by more than 60 percent, corn production is
1-19 down by 26 percent, soybean production has decreased by more than 30
1-20 percent, and the state's production of peanuts and sorghum is
1-21 expected to be down by 40 percent; and

1-22 WHEREAS, An estimated \$1.6 billion in livestock losses, as
1-23 well as the rising cost of hay and supplemental feed, have forced
1-24 many ranchers to sell their cattle earlier than anticipated, which
1-25 will undoubtedly cause a decrease in the beef supply for several
1-26 years; all told, the total agricultural loss to the state stands at
1-27 more than \$4 billion; and

1-28 WHEREAS, This dire economic impact is shared by the
1-29 businesses that support the agriculture community, specifically
1-30 those in rural areas, where projections estimate the loss to be
1-31 nearly \$8 billion; the businesses affected include those that
1-32 provide equipment or machinery, supplies, feed, and professional
1-33 services such as veterinarians; and

1-34 WHEREAS, Adding insult to injury, the drought has resulted in
1-35 more than 21,000 fires, burning in excess of two million acres
1-36 between January and November, 2006, and contributing to the loss of
1-37 5,000 miles of fence and 5,000 cattle in the Panhandle alone; the
1-38 fires in the northern regions of the state have certainly
1-39 contributed to the diminution in hay production, and the United
1-40 States Department of Agriculture (USDA) estimates that 77 percent
1-41 of Texas' hay production was lost during the same period; and

1-42 WHEREAS, To alleviate this financial burden, the Texas
1-43 Department of Agriculture will administer a total of \$16.1 million
1-44 in assistance received from the USDA to eligible livestock
1-45 producers in 216 drought-stressed counties, but with more than \$12
1-46 billion in total economic loss as a direct result of the drought,
1-47 more assistance is needed; the devastation to crops and livestock
1-48 in the number two agricultural state in the nation has put a
1-49 financial strain on Texas farmers and ranchers, and it is
1-50 imperative that the federal government continue to assist the
1-51 individuals and families that have suffered during this time; now,
1-52 therefore, be it

1-53 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
1-54 hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to
1-55 provide further drought relief to Texas; and, be it further

1-56 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
1-57 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
1-58 the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the
1-59 senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the
1-60 Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this
1-61 resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a
1-62 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

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