

By: Bonnen

H.C.R. No. 149

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, Reducing pollution and protecting the environment  
2 are of the utmost concern to both federal government and the Texas  
3 Legislature; and

4           WHEREAS, the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria eight hour ozone  
5 nonattainment area is not expected to achieve the eight-hour ozone  
6 deadline of 2010, due primarily to the incongruity between federal  
7 attainment deadlines and the timeline imposed for the  
8 implementation of federal controls;

9           WHEREAS, the Dallas-Fort Worth eight-hour ozone  
10 nonattainment area is expected to achieve the eight-hour ozone  
11 deadline of 2010 only on the weight of evidence by a narrow margin  
12 that may not meet the approval of the United States Environmental  
13 Protection Agency;

14           WHEREAS, on-road mobile sources are a major source of  
15 nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds, contributing  
16 seventy-three percent of the NOx in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and  
17 sixty percent in the Houston area and are preempted by the federal  
18 government and cannot be regulated under the State's authority; and

19           WHEREAS, the United States Clean Air Act and the  
20 Environmental Protection Agency threaten the state with loss of  
21 federal highway funds if the state does not meet federal clean air  
22 standards while they have direct control over the largest remaining  
23 sources of emissions from mobile sources; and

24           WHEREAS, the state, partnering with industrial point

1 sources, has made huge emissions reductions, preventing the  
2 emission of five-hundred fourteen tons per day of NOx in the  
3 Dallas-Fort Worth area and three-hundred thirty-three tons per day  
4 of NOx in the Houston area; and

5 WHEREAS, new federal vehicle engine standards and vehicle  
6 fleet turnover will eventually reduce a significant amount of  
7 emissions, these the new standards are too late in being  
8 implemented to help the state meet its federally mandated  
9 attainment deadlines; and

10 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas  
11 urge congress and the United States Environmental Protection Agency  
12 to recognize that the state of Texas has done everything in its  
13 power to meet the current attainment deadline for the eight-hour  
14 ozone standard and has made great strides in cleaning the air, and  
15 that the attainment deadline is incongruous with promulgation dates  
16 of new federal vehicle engine standards, and that the federal  
17 government is now primarily responsible for the state's air  
18 quality, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State forward official copies  
20 of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the  
21 speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the  
22 senate of the United States Congress, to the administrator of the  
23 United States Environmental Protection Agency, and to all members  
24 of the Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this  
25 resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a  
26 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.