

By: Swinford, Berman, Jackson, Creighton,
et al.

H.C.R. No. 193

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Rio Grande provides the national boundary
2 between the United States of America and the Estados Unidos
3 Mexicanos and serves as the shared water source of historic
4 international communities from El Paso to Brownsville,
5 demonstrating our common culture and shared mutual dependency
6 throughout our history; and

7 WHEREAS, A porous Texas-Mexico border constitutes a
8 significant threat to the safety and security of all Texans, and
9 until the border is secure, the citizens of Texas will be vulnerable
10 to organized crime, violent gangs, and international terrorists;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, While this border should be a line of defense
13 against those who pose threats to our countries, it must also
14 continue to sustain the vast amount of legitimate traffic, now
15 topping \$45 billion annually, that contributes to our national
16 economies and our regional marketplace; and

17 WHEREAS, Supported by former military commandos and
18 international gangs, powerful and ruthless Mexican criminal
19 organizations engage in kidnapping, torture, and murder to support
20 their drug trafficking and human smuggling operations along the
21 border; and

22 WHEREAS, While these activities affect every community in
23 Texas, residents on both sides of the border are victimized by the
24 criminal organizations that terrorize the entire region; and

1 WHEREAS, A vulnerable border also allows international
2 terrorist organizations such as al Qaeda to smuggle operatives into
3 the United States undetected; in a recent one-year period, 234
4 illegal aliens from countries with a known al Qaeda presence were
5 apprehended along the Texas-Mexico border; and

6 WHEREAS, These captures are particularly alarming given that
7 Texas is a uniquely desirable target for terrorism with the state's
8 heavily populated urban areas, critical infrastructure and key
9 resources, and nationally significant agricultural, financial, and
10 petrochemical industries; and

11 WHEREAS, While border security operations must defend
12 against threats to our state and nation, they must also preserve the
13 legitimate trade that richly contributes to our state and national
14 economies, and it is fitting that these dual efforts toward
15 security and commerce receive the state's full support; and

16 WHEREAS, Although protecting the sovereignty of the
17 Texas-Mexico border is a federal responsibility, the federal
18 government has been unwilling and unable to implement needed border
19 security measures; such inaction leaves Texans unprotected from
20 terrorist and criminal organizations that seek to cause harm to the
21 residents of the state; and

22 WHEREAS, The importance of a secure border to economic growth
23 and the quality of life in Texas has prompted the state to initiate
24 border security operations to significantly reduce terrorist
25 threats and violent crime in the region, and it is fitting that
26 these efforts receive the state's full support; and

27 WHEREAS, Any decision to create barriers on the border should

1 take into account the gracious and genteel qualities that
2 characterize local border communities; moreover, such
3 construction, particularly through the application of eminent
4 domain, must also take into account the pride and privilege of land
5 ownership; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
7 hereby declare that the current threat to public safety along the
8 Texas-Mexico border requires decisive action to protect all
9 residents of the state and preserve the vibrant culture of the
10 border; and, be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the legislature express support for ongoing
12 state-led border security operations to control the Texas-Mexico
13 border and ensure the safety of the people of Texas.