

By: Morrison

H.R. No. 256

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, February 5-9, 2007, is being celebrated as Texas  
2 Technology Week in order to create public awareness of the  
3 extraordinary achievements of these industries and the vital role  
4 they play in the prosperity of the Lone Star State; and

5           WHEREAS, Sponsoring Texas Technology Week are the AeA Texas  
6 Council, the Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute, the  
7 Metroplex Technology Business Council, and TechNet Texas; and

8           WHEREAS, The state's technology and life-sciences industries  
9 and research institutions are revolutionizing the world we live in,  
10 achieving leading-edge advances in medicine, space exploration,  
11 computing, communications, energy, and transportation; these  
12 industries employ more Texans than the oil, natural gas, and  
13 agriculture industries combined, and their high-wage, high-skill  
14 jobs contribute to a diverse and growing economy; and

15           WHEREAS, People around the globe have benefited immeasurably  
16 from the medical treatments and devices developed by Texas  
17 companies; the Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute, whose  
18 membership includes universities and private research  
19 institutions, as well as biotechnology, medical device, and  
20 pharmaceutical companies, acknowledges that between 2000 and 2004,  
21 approximately 2,700 Texas biotechnology patents were issued and  
22 that the state's biotechnology-related patent growth is outpacing  
23 the national average; and

24           WHEREAS, The life-sciences industry constitutes a

1 significant pillar of the Texas economy; including approximately  
2 3,000 establishments employing more than 75,000 Texans, with the  
3 promise of continued job growth for many years to come; and

4 WHEREAS, AeA, the nation's largest high-tech trade group,  
5 reports that Texas ranks second in the country in high-tech  
6 employment, with some 436,000 jobs and with 57 of every 1,000  
7 private sector workers in our state employed by high-tech firms;  
8 moreover, Texas ranks 12th among all the states in terms of its  
9 high-tech average wage, a wage that is nearly double that of the  
10 average private sector worker, allowing the industry to provide an  
11 aggregate high-tech payroll of \$31.5 billion; the importance of  
12 this industry to Texans is further underscored by the fact that  
13 high-tech products account for 26 percent of the state's  
14 international exports; and

15 WHEREAS, All sectors of the high-technology and  
16 life-sciences community are joining together this week to discuss  
17 the major issues facing their industries and to affirm their  
18 support for a strong system of public and higher education, a  
19 critical factor in providing the highly skilled workforce on which  
20 these industries depend; and

21 WHEREAS, The technology and life-sciences industry have  
22 become a tremendous engine of economic growth in the State of Texas,  
23 and the benefits of their research and production enrich people the  
24 world over; now, therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
26 Legislature hereby recognize February 5-9, 2007, as Texas  
27 Technology Week and commend its sponsors for their outstanding

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1 efforts in promoting research, development, products, services,  
2 and manufacturing in the State of Texas.