

By: Callegari

H.R. No. 689

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The population of the State of Texas is projected to
2 more than double between 2000 and 2060, expanding from 21 million to
3 46 million inhabitants and fueling a 27 percent increase in water
4 demand, from almost 17 million acre-feet to 21.5 million acre-feet;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Water supplies will decrease by 18 percent, from
7 17.9 million acre-feet to 14.6 million acre-feet, primarily because
8 of accumulating sediments in reservoirs and the depletion of
9 freshwater aquifers; some 2.7 billion acre-feet of brackish
10 groundwater are contained in other Texas aquifers, however, and an
11 inexhaustible supply of seawater is available from the Gulf of
12 Mexico; and

13 WHEREAS, Desalination of brackish groundwater is already
14 providing new water supplies to communities all across Texas, from
15 Cameron County to San Angelo, with the country's largest inland
16 brackish groundwater desalination facility soon to go into
17 operation in El Paso; and

18 WHEREAS, Desalination of seawater is a proven technology that
19 is providing water-supply solutions for countries around the globe
20 and an increasingly cost-competitive alternative for coastal
21 cities in the United States; the first seawater desalination plant
22 in Texas, a pilot-scale facility in Brownsville, has just begun
23 functioning, and results obtained there will help in designing a
24 large-scale plant to be constructed in the near future; and

1 WHEREAS, Major funding for seawater desalination studies has
2 been provided by the Texas Water Development Board through
3 appropriations by the Texas Legislature under an initiative
4 launched by Governor Rick Perry in April 2002 to develop
5 drought-proof supplies of water for the Lone Star State; and

6 WHEREAS, Funding for numerous brackish groundwater studies
7 has also been provided by the Texas Water Development Board through
8 appropriations by the Texas Legislature as a means of accelerating
9 development of new water supplies in rural communities; and

10 WHEREAS, The success of these projects benefits not only the
11 communities they directly serve but also Texas as a whole by freeing
12 up existing water resources for new uses and by demonstrating
13 technologies and processes that can be applied by other entities;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The Texas Water Conservation Association
16 Desalination Coalition and the South Central Membrane Association
17 have joined together to promote awareness of desalination as a
18 proven technology for increasing water supplies in Texas and to
19 support continued investment in Texas desalination activities as a
20 practical means of ensuring adequate supplies of water for
21 generations of Texans to come; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
23 Legislature hereby recognize March 7, 2007, as Texas Desalination
24 Day at the State Capitol and encourage continued investment in
25 practical applications of desalination technology in Texas for the
26 benefit of all citizens.