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H.R. No. 2482

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Population growth in the arid and semiarid regions
2 of the United States is expanding at a rate that far exceeds the
3 growth rate in other parts of the nation, yet it is this same region
4 where water sources will or have become limited in their capacity to
5 sustain future population growth; and

6 WHEREAS, Traditional approaches to meeting growing water
7 demand in urban areas require exploitation of surface and
8 subsurface resources to the maximum extent possible, but these
9 approaches are becoming increasingly costly in terms of both the
10 financial resources required and the environmental impact; and

11 WHEREAS, Future growth and development of urban areas will
12 require cost-effective solutions that provide sustainable water
13 supplies without associated negative environmental impacts; the
14 development of supplies also will require collaborative efforts
15 among all of the communities, organizations, and institutions that
16 have a stake in the region's well-being; and

17 WHEREAS, Because Texas is blessed with a diverse geography
18 and climate, ranging from water-rich lowlands in the southeast
19 coastal plain to desert high country in the west, where water supply
20 issues confront not only Texas communities but similarly situated
21 communities in the Southwestern United States and several northern
22 Mexican states such as Chihuahua and Coahuila, the state is
23 well-positioned to take a leadership role in vital research,
24 education, and knowledge transfer in the area of sustainable water

1 supply development; and

2 WHEREAS, One avenue toward such a leadership role would be
3 the creation of the proposed Sustainable Water Supply Research
4 Center (SWATS) at The University of Texas at Arlington, which, as
5 currently envisioned, would focus on the pressing issue of
6 maintaining a viable water supply for the foreseeable future in
7 Texas; and

8 WHEREAS, Involving the various stakeholders, the center
9 would provide an invaluable platform for collaborative networks and
10 partnerships among agencies of state and local governments,
11 academic researchers, the business and scientific communities, and
12 other interested parties to gather information and achieve the goal
13 of sustainable water supplies; and

14 WHEREAS, Performing advanced and innovative
15 multidisciplinary research into mitigation of the deleterious
16 effects of a diminishing water supply on the economy, communities,
17 and the overall quality of life, the center also would provide
18 students with educational experiences to prepare them for technical
19 and leadership roles in private sector industries, government, and
20 academic research; and

21 WHEREAS, To be headquartered in the Department of Civil and
22 Environmental Engineering at The University of Texas at Arlington's
23 College of Engineering, the center would benefit immediately from
24 an ambitious plan of action that already has laid out specific goals
25 and includes a critical keystone project with a three-year, \$20
26 million budget and a consortium involving the university and Texas'
27 civil engineering community; and

1 WHEREAS, By establishing the SWATS Research Center, Texas
2 would begin to address an issue that will, to a large extent,
3 determine the economic future not only of Texas but of the entire
4 binational region encompassing the Southwestern United States and
5 the bordering Mexican states; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
7 Legislature hereby express its support for the creation of the
8 Sustainable Water Supply Research Center at The University of Texas
9 at Arlington.