

By: McCall

H.R. No. 463

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Texas Technology Week is being celebrated February
2 16-20, 2009, in an effort to raise awareness of the extraordinary
3 achievements of the technology and life sciences industries and the
4 vital role they play in the prosperity of the Lone Star State; and

5 WHEREAS, The occasion is sponsored by TechAmerica, the Texas
6 Healthcare and Bioscience Institute, TechNet Texas, the Metroplex
7 Technology Business Council, the Texas Association of Business, the
8 Texas Coalition for Capital, and the Solar Alliance; and

9 WHEREAS, The state's technology and life sciences
10 industries, as well as its research institutions, are
11 revolutionizing the world we live in through cutting-edge advances
12 in medicine, space exploration, computing, communications, energy,
13 and transportation; these industries employ more residents of Texas
14 than the oil, natural gas, and agricultural industries combined,
15 and their high-wage, highly skilled jobs contribute to a diverse
16 and growing statewide economy; and

17 WHEREAS, People around the globe have benefited immeasurably
18 from medical treatments and devices developed by Texas companies;
19 in fact, the life sciences industry employs more than 85,400 Texans
20 at some 3,200 establishments, and continued job growth is expected
21 for years to come; and

22 WHEREAS, According to the Texas Healthcare and Bioscience
23 Institute, whose members include research institutions, regional
24 economic development entities, and biotechnology, medical device,

1 and pharmaceutical companies, one of nearly every 23 U.S.
2 biotechnology employees worked in Texas in 2006; the institute also
3 reports that the state's biotechnology-related patent growth is
4 outpacing the national average; in addition, nine recipients of
5 biotechnology-related Nobel Prizes, National Medals of Science,
6 and National Medals of Technology and Innovation are based in
7 Texas, and in 2007, the National Institutes of Health awarded more
8 than \$1 billion in grants to organizations in Texas; and

9 WHEREAS, TechAmerica, the nation's largest high-technology
10 trade group, reports that Texas ranks second in the country in
11 high-tech employment, with approximately 459,000 jobs; moreover,
12 56 out of every 1,000 private sector workers in Texas are employed
13 by high-tech firms; the state ranks ninth among all states in terms
14 of high-tech average wage, and the industry provides an aggregate
15 high-tech payroll of \$37.5 billion; the importance of this industry
16 to Texans is further underscored by the fact that high-tech product
17 exports exceed \$35.9 billion and account for 21 percent of the
18 state's international exports; and

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

25 WHEREAS, The technology and life sciences industries have
26 become a tremendous engine of economic growth in the State of Texas,
27 and the benefits of their research and production enhance the lives

1 of people the world over; now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
3 Legislature hereby recognize February 16-20, 2009, as Texas
4 Technology Week and commend its sponsors for their outstanding
5 efforts in promoting research, development, products, services,
6 and manufacturing in the State of Texas.