

By: McCall

H.R. No. 943

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Texas Public Policy Foundation is celebrating
2 its 20th anniversary in 2009; and

3 WHEREAS, In the two decades since it was established, this
4 organization has been a tireless defender of the founding
5 principles of this great country: liberty, personal
6 responsibility, and free enterprise; and

7 WHEREAS, The foundation was organized in San Antonio in 1989
8 by a small group of civic-minded Texans who were inspired by the
9 effectiveness of the Heritage Foundation at the national level;
10 these citizens were determined to protect Texans' liberties and
11 freedom by using independent, market-based research to devise
12 solutions to problems confronting state government; and

13 WHEREAS, While the Texas Public Policy Foundation focused
14 initially on education and tort reform, it has grown to become a
15 broad-based research institute, the largest in the state guided by
16 free-market principles; today, its purview encompasses taxation,
17 government spending, criminal justice, health care, property
18 rights, public infrastructure, consumer markets, and the
19 environment; and

20 WHEREAS, The foundation sponsors research by in-house policy
21 analysts and by scholars from across the state and around the world;
22 over the years, this institution has played an integral role in the
23 Texas legislative process by generating sound, independent
24 research and recommendations and by educating elected leaders

1 without regard to their political affiliation or philosophical
2 viewpoint; and

3 WHEREAS, Implementation of the foundation's proposals has
4 contributed to remarkable economic success in the Lone Star State;
5 Texas now leads the nation, or ranks near the top, in overall job
6 creation, overall financial condition, and the number of Fortune
7 500 companies headquartered in the state; moreover, Texas boasts
8 nearly the lowest per capita general revenue tax burden in the
9 country; and

10 WHEREAS, Early board members and advisors included former
11 president George W. Bush, Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst,
12 Railroad Commissioner Michael Williams, Congressman Jeb
13 Hensarling, and other influential leaders; the foundation's
14 current board of directors consists of members from a variety of
15 professions and industries, including law, medicine, oil, media,
16 real estate, and academia; and

17 WHEREAS, Since its inception, the Texas Public Policy
18 Foundation has grown in both influence and size, and today it ranks
19 as a leading defender of freedom and liberty; with almost 20
20 employees and contracted experts and a budget of more than \$3
21 million, the foundation constitutes the largest state-based think
22 tank in the nation and serves as an outstanding model for other
23 free-market organizations; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
25 Legislature hereby commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Texas
26 Public Policy Foundation and extend to all those associated with
27 the organization sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be

1 it further

2 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
3 prepared for the foundation as an expression of high regard by the
4 Texas House of Representatives.