

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The State of Texas lost a passionate leader and  
2 dynamic trailblazer with the death of the Honorable Richard F.  
3 Williamson on December 30, 2007, at the age of 55; and

4           WHEREAS, Born on January 25, 1952, in Abilene, the county  
5 seat of Taylor County, Ric Williamson attended The University of  
6 Texas at Austin and married a fellow Longhorn, the former Mary Ann  
7 Welsch, in 1973; he earned his bachelor's degree the following  
8 year, and the couple went on to settle in Weatherford; they shared a  
9 rewarding relationship and Mr. Williamson always took great pride  
10 in his family; they raised three beautiful daughters, Melissa,  
11 Katherine, and Sara, and later welcomed two grandchildren into the  
12 family; and

13           WHEREAS, Mr. Williamson founded RAW Energy with two partners  
14 and later he and Mrs. Williamson established MKS Consulting  
15 Corporation, which continues in operation today; in his leisure  
16 time, Mr. Williams was an avid hunter and also enjoyed supporting  
17 women's fast-pitch softball; and

18           WHEREAS, Caring deeply about the well-being of his community  
19 and his state, Mr. Williamson began his public service in 1985, when  
20 residents of Parker and Wise Counties elected him to the Texas House  
21 of Representatives; during his 14 years as representative for  
22 District 61, he served on a number of legislative committees and as  
23 vice chair of appropriations; in this role, Mr. Williamson became  
24 fondly known as one of the "Pit Bulls," conservative lawmakers who

1 seriously questioned how the state spent its money; Mr. Williamson  
2 believed strongly that funding should be tied to the setting and  
3 meeting of goals, a process now known as performance budgeting; his  
4 professional and legislative accomplishments earned him many  
5 awards through the years, and he was particularly proud of his  
6 recognition as one of the state's Ten Best Legislators by *Texas*  
7 *Monthly* magazine in both 1989 and 1991; and

8       WHEREAS, Although Mr. Williamson left the legislature in  
9 1998, he remained committed to making a positive difference in his  
10 state, and soon returned to Austin at the request of a fellow house  
11 member and close friend, Governor Rick Perry; in 2001, Governor  
12 Perry appointed him to serve on the Texas Transportation  
13 Commission, and in January 2004, Mr. Williamson was named its  
14 chair, a position he held for the rest of his life; as chair, Mr.  
15 Williamson became the state's greatest advocate for improving the  
16 transportation system by "thinking big, planning large, and  
17 executing huge"; and

18       WHEREAS, This dynamic Texan fought tirelessly on the federal,  
19 state, and local levels to bring attention to the urgent necessity  
20 of acting immediately in order to meet our future transportation  
21 needs; through his steadfast leadership, Texas gained a strategic  
22 plan with goals to reduce congestion, improve safety, expand  
23 economic opportunity, increase the value of assets along its  
24 highway system, and improve the state's air quality; and

25       WHEREAS, Mr. Williamson will be long remembered for proposing  
26 and realizing ambitious solutions to the state's longstanding  
27 transportation challenges, and for the lasting effect of his

1 efforts to empower local leaders to make local transportation  
2 decisions; he approached all his endeavors with remarkable  
3 determination, discipline, and strength, and he drew a circle of  
4 close friends and admirers, enhancing their lives with his  
5 friendship and loyalty; and

6 WHEREAS, Although it is impossible to measure the full effect  
7 of one man's life, through his dedication to the people of Texas,  
8 Ric Williamson left an inspiring legacy that will continue to shape  
9 the state's infrastructure and contribute to its prosperity for  
10 years to come; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
12 Legislature hereby pay special tribute to the memory of the  
13 Honorable Richard F. Williamson, and extend sincere sympathy to all  
14 who mourn his loss; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
16 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
17 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Richard F.  
18 "Ric" Williamson, former state representative and chair of the  
19 Texas Transportation Commission.

Kuempel

H.R. No. 2806

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 2806 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on June 1, 2009.

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Chief Clerk of the House