

By: Kuempel

H.R. No. 2806

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.