

By: Chavez

H.R. No. 2852

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Tigua Indians of Ysleta del Sur Pueblo of El Paso
2 are governed under a 1987 federal law, known as The Restoration Act
3 (25 U.S.C. Section 1300g et seq.), which restored the tribe to
4 federal jurisdiction; and

5 WHEREAS, The Restoration Act preceded the Indian Gaming
6 Regulatory Act (IGRA) by a year, and Section 1300g-6 of the
7 Restoration Act includes the following language: "All gaming
8 activities which are prohibited by the laws of the State of Texas
9 are hereby prohibited on the reservation and on the lands of the
10 tribe"; as a result, the Tiguas entered the gaming industry only
11 after Texas voters approved several forms of gambling in 1991; and

12 WHEREAS, The tribe's Speaking Rock Casino and Entertainment
13 Center earned some \$60 million a year and provided its 1,300 members
14 with jobs, free health insurance, and college scholarships;
15 however, since a federal court ruling closed the casino, the tribe
16 has struggled to sustain itself; and

17 WHEREAS, In contrast, the Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas
18 in Eagle Pass was extended federal recognition in 1983 and is not
19 subject to the same gaming prohibition as the Tigua tribe; the
20 Kickapoos operate the Lucky Eagle Casino, which is subject to the
21 provisions of the IGRA and oversight by the National Indian Gaming
22 Commission; all tribal members are employed by the casino, and the
23 profits have enabled the tribe to build more housing and to
24 subsidize the education of its young people; and

1 WHEREAS, Because it is not governed by the Indian Gaming
2 Regulatory Act, the Tigua tribe is denied the opportunity to
3 benefit economically from gaming profits and, in turn, the ability
4 to help improve tribal members' lives; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
6 Legislature hereby express its support for efforts by the federal
7 government to amend The Restoration Act by eliminating 25 U.S.C.
8 Section 1300g-6; and, be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the chief clerk forward an official copy of
10 this resolution to the presiding officers of the United States
11 Congress and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress.