

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 480

WHEREAS, The year 2009 marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Texas Public Policy Foundation; and

WHEREAS, In the 20 years since its founding, the foundation has been a tireless defender of the founding principles of this great country of liberty, personal responsibility, and free enterprise; and

WHEREAS, The foundation was founded in San Antonio in 1989 by a small group of civic-minded Texans who were inspired by the effectiveness of the Heritage Foundation at the national level and wanted to protect Texans' liberty and freedom by bringing independent, market-based research to tackle problems facing state government; and

WHEREAS, While the Texas Public Policy Foundation was founded with an initial focus on education and tort reform, the foundation has grown to become a broad-based research institute examining issues that include taxes, government spending, criminal justice, health care, property rights, public infrastructure, consumer markets, and the environment; and

WHEREAS, The foundation's current board of directors consists of members from a variety of professions, including law, medicine, oil, media, real estate, and academia; and

WHEREAS, The foundation is the state's largest free-market public policy research institute, with academic research, policy-driven events, and independent insight as its hallmarks; and

WHEREAS, With research conducted by in-house policy analysts and scholars from across the state, nation, and world, the foundation pursues the highest standards of academic integrity; and

WHEREAS, The foundation has played an integral role in the Texas legislative process by providing principled and independent research and recommendations and educating elected leaders without regard to their political affiliation or philosophical viewpoint; and

WHEREAS, Implementation of the foundation's research recommendations has contributed to the economic successes of this great state, as Texas now leads or ranks near the top in the nation in the number of Fortune 500 companies, overall job creation, and state financial condition and proudly ranks almost last in per capita general revenue tax burden; and

WHEREAS, The foundation has grown during the past 20 years into a leading defender of freedom and liberty, with almost 20 employees and contracted experts and a budget of more than \$3 million; it is now the largest state-based think tank in the nation and serves as a model for other free-market organizations; now, therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 81st Legislature, hereby congratulate the Texas Public Policy Foundation on its notable achievements and its 20th anniversary and extend to the foundation sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the Texas Public Policy Foundation as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Shapiro

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 27, 2009.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate