

1-1 By: Kleinschmidt (Senate Sponsor - Ogden) H.C.R. No. 45
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House March 31, 2011;
1-3 April 7, 2011, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Administration; April 26, 2011, reported favorably by the
1-5 following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; April 26, 2011, sent to printer.)

1-6 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-7 WHEREAS, The development of Texas in the late 1800s and early
1-8 1900s was shaped in important ways by the railroad, with
1-9 communities all across the state being transformed by the arrival
1-10 of this revolutionary mode of transportation; and

1-11 WHEREAS, Sadly, many of the historic depots that were
1-12 integral to railroad operations have not survived the passage of
1-13 the decades, and the disappearance of these structures deprives
1-14 Texans of a tangible link to the state's past; and

1-15 WHEREAS, In certain places, however, residents have had the
1-16 foresight to preserve the vintage architectural treasures related
1-17 to train travel, and the town of Giddings stands at the forefront of
1-18 this trend; this historic crossroads in Central Texas has three
1-19 original depots, each of which has been restored and put to use in
1-20 ways that help illuminate the community's heritage; and

1-21 WHEREAS, The resurrection of these buildings is especially
1-22 fitting for Giddings, a city that was founded when the Houston and
1-23 Central Texas Railway was built through the area in the early 1870s
1-24 and that grew into an important rail junction; over time, the city's
1-25 downtown became home to three depots: Union Station, which dates to
1-26 the 1880s, a freight depot from the 1890s, and a brick passenger
1-27 facility, built circa 1920; all three had closed by the 1960s due to
1-28 the decline in train transportation, but each would survive to see a
1-29 brighter day; and

1-30 WHEREAS, A downtown revitalization plan drafted in the late
1-31 1990s called for the restoration of the depots, and work was
1-32 completed in 2009; today, Union Station houses the Rural Texas
1-33 Tourism Center and the Union Station Transportation Museum, the
1-34 brick passenger facility serves as the site of the Giddings
1-35 Economic Development Corporation and the Giddings Area Chamber of
1-36 Commerce, and the freight depot contains additional displays
1-37 related to railroad history and memorabilia; the revitalization
1-38 project also prompted the establishment of a walking tour of the
1-39 historic area in Giddings; and

1-40 WHEREAS, This admirable undertaking has once again made the
1-41 depots a focal point of the downtown area, sparking a broader
1-42 renaissance in the city and also publicizing the attractions of
1-43 other small towns in the state through the efforts of the Rural
1-44 Texas Tourism Center; moreover, the restoration of these historic
1-45 train facilities provides visitors with a unique opportunity to
1-46 gain deeper insight into the rich history of rail transport and the
1-47 ways in which it helped build Texas into the dynamic state we know
1-48 today; now, therefore, be it

1-49 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
1-50 hereby designate Giddings as the official Depot Capital of Texas.

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