

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Debra L. Friedkin made a site along Buttermilk Creek
2 in Bell County available to Texas A&M University's Center for the
3 Study of the First Americans in 2006, and research at the site is
4 adding immeasurably to our understanding of the first Americans;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Since the 1930s, archeologists have believed that
7 early inhabitants of the Americas, named the Clovis people for
8 artifacts found near Clovis, New Mexico, arrived in North America
9 from Asia, by way of the Bering Land Bridge, as the last Ice Age
10 waned about 13,500 years ago; over the past few decades, however,
11 credible evidence has emerged for pre-Clovis human occupation of
12 the Americas, but until now the evidence has been incomplete; and

13 WHEREAS, The land in Bell County, now known as the Debra L.
14 Friedkin site, has been under excavation for five years by Michael
15 R. Waters, director of the Center for the Study of the First
16 Americans, and his team of scientists and researchers from TAMU,
17 Baylor University, the University of Illinois at Chicago, the
18 University of Minnesota, and Texas State University--San Marcos,
19 and the group has found artifacts that support the pre-Clovis
20 theory; and

21 WHEREAS, The excavation of the Debra L. Friedkin site has
22 revealed deposits that testify to human occupation spanning the
23 last 15,500 years; layers near the surface show evidence of late
24 Prehistoric and Archaic occupants of the region, while deeper

1 layers reflect Folsom and Clovis occupations dating back 12,000 to
2 13,000 years; below this, researchers have discovered nearly 16,000
3 artifacts that appear to be pre-Clovis in origin; and

4 WHEREAS, Multiple studies suggest that the Debra L. Friedkin
5 site is undisturbed and intact; because the lack of organic
6 material at the site made carbon dating impossible, researchers
7 employed a technique known as optically stimulated luminescence,
8 which detects the last time the sediment surrounding the artifacts
9 received exposure to sunlight, and more than 60 such measures show
10 that people had arrived there by 15,500 years ago; and

11 WHEREAS, The discoveries from the excavation at the Debra L.
12 Friedkin site are bringing archaeologists and other members of the
13 scientific community much closer to solving mysteries of early
14 human habitation of the Americas, and their work would not be
15 possible without the generosity of Ms. Friedkin; now, therefore, be
16 it

17 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
18 hereby honor Debra L. Friedkin for her support of the ongoing
19 research at the Debra L. Friedkin site and extend to her sincere
20 gratitude for the advances in knowledge of human history she is
21 helping to realize; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
23 prepared for Ms. Friedkin as an expression of high regard by the
24 Texas House of Representatives and Senate.

S. Davis of Harris

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 143 was adopted by the House on May 12, 2011, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 143 was adopted by the Senate on May 17, 2011, by a viva-voce vote.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor