

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The United States Fish and Wildlife Service has  
2 proposed granting endangered species status to the dunes sagebrush  
3 lizard, a measure that would have a significant negative impact on  
4 the Lone Star State; and

5           WHEREAS, The business climate in Texas has been consistently  
6 ranked as the nation's best, and the oil and gas sector is crucial  
7 to its continued vitality; Texas is the nation's leading producer  
8 of oil and natural gas, and it holds 30 percent of the nation's  
9 natural gas reserves and almost a quarter of its oil reserves; the  
10 oil and gas industry contributes \$30 billion annually to the Texas  
11 economy and employs more than 315,000 Texans at some of the highest  
12 salaries in the state; and

13           WHEREAS, Despite its resilience, the Texas economy has not  
14 been immune to the global economic recession; there have been  
15 significant job losses over the past two years, and recently high  
16 gas prices have posed new challenges; the Fish and Wildlife Service  
17 failed to take these factors into account in its proposal to grant  
18 endangered species status to the dunes sagebrush lizard in  
19 southeastern New Mexico and adjacent oil-producing areas of West  
20 Texas; and

21           WHEREAS, In addition, the service has failed to consider that  
22 approximately 75,000 acres identified as habitat for the lizard are  
23 owned and managed by The University of Texas for the benefit of  
24 higher education; university officials have estimated that the

1 listing could stop the drilling of approximately 1,000 oil and gas  
2 wells and eliminate the production of seven million barrels of oil  
3 equivalent annually; and

4 WHEREAS, The Texas Legislature and the Texas Parks and  
5 Wildlife Department have traditionally recognized the private  
6 landowner as the primary steward of our state's natural resources,  
7 but the Fish and Wildlife Service has not adequately consulted with  
8 the State of Texas, Texas landowners, or other stakeholders;  
9 moreover, the service has failed to fully consider issues unique to  
10 species protection and habitat conservation in Texas; and

11 WHEREAS, Listing the dunes sagebrush lizard as an endangered  
12 species would inflict severe economic damage, harm property owners,  
13 and undermine higher education in the Lone Star State; now,  
14 therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
16 Legislature hereby respectfully urge the United States Fish and  
17 Wildlife Service to withdraw its proposal to list the dunes  
18 sagebrush lizard under the Endangered Species Act of 1973; and, be  
19 it further

20 RESOLVED, That the house of representatives direct the  
21 agencies of the State of Texas to cooperate with the efforts of the  
22 Texas Endangered Species Task Force to investigate the scientific  
23 basis of the proposed listing and the potential burdens on private  
24 property rights and economic development in the state; and, be it  
25 further

26 RESOLVED, That the chief clerk of the Texas House of  
27 Representatives forward official copies of this resolution to the

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1 president of the United States, the acting director of the U.S. Fish  
2 and Wildlife Service, the president of the Senate and the speaker of  
3 the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and all  
4 the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request  
5 that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a  
6 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

Chisum  
Craddick  
Lewis  
Gallego  
Perry

Straus	Gonzales of Williamson	Morrison
Aliseda	Gonzalez	Munoz, Jr.
Allen	Gooden	Murphy
Alonzo	Guillen	Naishtat
Alvarado	Gutierrez	Nash
Anchia	Hamilton	Oliveira
Anderson of Dallas	Hancock	Orr
Anderson of McLennan	Hardcastle	Otto
Aycock	Harless	Parker
Beck	Harper-Brown	Patrick
Berman	Hartnett	Paxton
Bohac	Hernandez Luna	Pena
Bonnen	Hilderbran	Perry
Branch	Hochberg	Phillips
Brown	Hopson	Pickett
Burkett	Howard of Fort Bend	Pitts
Burnam	Howard of Travis	Price
Button	Huberty	Quintanilla
Cain	Hughes	Raymond
Callegari	Hunter	Reynolds
Carter	Isaac	Riddle
Castro	Jackson	Ritter
Chisum	Johnson	Rodriguez
Christian	Keffer	Schwertner
Coleman	King of Parker	Scott
Cook	King of Taylor	Sheets
Craddick	King of Zavala	Sheffield
Creighton	Kleinschmidt	Shelton
Crownover	Kolkhorst	Simpson
Darby	Kuempel	Smith of Harris
Davis of Dallas	Landtroop	Smith of Tarrant
J. Davis of Harris	Larson	Smithee
S. Davis of Harris	Laubenberg	Solomons
Deshotel	Lavender	Strama
Driver	Legler	Taylor of Collin
Dukes	Lewis	Taylor of Galveston
Dutton	Lozano	Thompson
Eiland	Lucio III	Torres
Eissler	Lyne	Truitt
Elkins	Madden	Turner
Farias	Mallory Caraway	Veasey
Farrar	Margo	Villarreal
Fletcher	Marquez	Vo
Flynn	Martinez	Walle
Frullo	Martinez Fischer	Weber
Gallego	McClendon	White
Garza	Menendez	Woolley
Geren	Miles	Workman
Giddings	Miller of Comal	Zedler
Gonzales of Hidalgo	Miller of Erath	Zerwas

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1955 was adopted by the House on May 25, 2011, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House