

By: Chisum

H.R. No. 1955

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.