

By: Kacal

H.R. No. 227

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The town of West was devastated by the fertilizer
2 plant explosion on April 17, 2013, which claimed 15 lives, injured
3 hundreds of people, and laid waste to a 37-square-block area; and

4 WHEREAS, The President of the United States issued an
5 emergency declaration under the authority of the Robert T. Stafford
6 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, and when he
7 participated in an April 25 memorial service, he indicated that the
8 federal government would support recovery efforts; after providing
9 initial assistance, however, the Federal Emergency Management
10 Agency denied a request for additional aid for the repair and
11 replacement of infrastructure, claiming the destruction "is not of
12 the severity and magnitude that warrants a major disaster
13 declaration"; and

14 WHEREAS, The explosion in West damaged some 350 homes,
15 representing about half of the town's houses; moreover, three of
16 the four schools in the West Independent School District were lost,
17 and much of the city's street and water infrastructure was damaged;
18 at the same time, the school district and the city lost about \$40
19 million of their tax base, making it difficult to pay for
20 rebuilding; this catastrophe will affect every resident for years
21 to come; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
23 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby extend sincere sympathy to
24 the residents of West and encourage all citizens in their efforts to

H.R. No. 227

1 rebuild their lives in the aftermath of this horrific tragedy.