

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Willacy County, located in the Lower Rio Grande
2 Valley in South Texas, under the leadership of its Commissioners
3 Court, has built a diversified local economy while also promoting
4 the conservation of its abundant natural resources; and

5 WHEREAS, Home to a strong agricultural industry, Willacy
6 County has supported Bermuda onion farming since 1912 and counts
7 sorghum among its other most important crops; oil and natural gas
8 production continue to further contribute to the county's economy
9 over 73 years, and a recent over \$20 million capital investment in
10 drilling for natural gas underscores the continuing importance of
11 that industry to the county's economic progress; and

12 WHEREAS, Other sources of energy are also being developed;
13 the county welcomed the completion of two wind farms, titled Los
14 Vientos I, II and Magic Valley and built by E.On Climate &
15 Renewables, Inc., and Duke Energy, Inc., which are generating more
16 than 600 megawatts in green source energy serving South and Central
17 Texas as a long-term source of revenue to meet energy demands; in
18 addition, Willacy County has become home to the corporate
19 headquarters of Valley Telephone Cooperative, which provides
20 access to television entertainment, telephone services, and the
21 Internet; the location of several detention centers in the county
22 has added still more jobs to the local economy; and

23 WHEREAS, Known for the richness of its plant and animal life,
24 Willacy County contains a wide variety of flora and fauna that have

1 received special protection, specifically recognizing the "ocelot"
2 on the federal highly endangered list, a cat species with fewer than
3 50 in population habitat known to the area; and

4 WHEREAS, Willacy County and its leaders aim to promote
5 ecotourism for world visitors and residents alike to also enjoy the
6 Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, the Tieniente and East Lake
7 sections of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge,
8 the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, and the Padre Island
9 National Seashore--Laguna Madre; moreover, development of the
10 Coastal Land Resource Center, being developed on donated property
11 by Edward B. Raymond Heirs, and Herman J. Wetegrove family and
12 structural improvements to the Laguna Madre at Port Mansfield,
13 titled Laguna Point Recreation Area, are two major projects aimed
14 to promote tourism, environmental education, and recreation of the
15 area's great outdoors, with completion dates set for 2014; and

16 WHEREAS, The county takes pride in its partnership with the
17 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to promote ecotourism and manage and
18 preserve its pristine environments; and

19 WHEREAS, Willacy County and its cities and community leaders
20 work together to build and develop its community human capital by
21 joining partnerships, by investment, and in alliance with higher
22 education institutions for college, satellite, and classroom
23 coursework learning to provide its citizens access to education
24 resources; and

25 WHEREAS, Willacy County residents are working together to
26 build a bright future for themselves and their children, and it is
27 indeed fitting to honor them for their numerous accomplishments;

1 now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
3 Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby recognize Willacy County
4 Commissioners Court members of 2008 and 2009 and current
5 Commissioners Court elected officials for charting myriad paths
6 toward economic growth, environmental sustainability, and
7 community progress and extend to its public officials, its business
8 and civic leaders, and all who call the county home sincere best
9 wishes for continued success.

Guillen

H.R. No. 156

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 156 was adopted by the House on July 29, 2013, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House