

By: Guillen

H.R. No. 156

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Willacy County located in Lower Rio Grande Valley in  
2 South Texas in leadership of its Commissioners Court has built a  
3 diversified local economy while also promoting the conservation of  
4 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 built by E.On Climate & Renewables,  
15 Inc, and Duke Energy, Inc. are generating more than 600 megawatts in  
16 green source energy serving South and Central Texas as a long-term  
17 source of revenue to meet energy demands. In addition, Willacy  
18 County has become home to the corporate headquarters of Valley  
19 Telephone Cooperative, which provides access to television  
20 entertainment, telephone services, and the Internet; the location  
21 of several detention centers in the county has added still more jobs  
22 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 faunavar have

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

4 WHEREAS, Willacy County and its leaders aim to promote  
5 ecotourism as for world visitors and residents alike to also enjoy  
6 the 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 by  
11 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 as two major projects aimed to  
14 promote tourism, environmental education and recreation of area's  
15 great outdoors with completion dates set for 2014; and

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

19 WHEREAS, Willacy County, and its cities and community leaders  
20 work together to build and develop its community human capital by  
21 joining partnership, investment and in alliance with higher  
22 education institutions for college, satellite and classroom  
23 coursework learning to provide it 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, 2009 and current Commissioners  
5 Court elected officials for charting myriad paths toward economic  
6 growth, environmental sustainability and community progress and  
7 extend to its public officials, its business and civic leaders, and  
8 all who call the county home sincere best wishes for continued  
9 success.