

By: Guillen

H.R. No. 190

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Willacy County, located in the southern Lower Rio
2 Grande Valley region of South Texas, containing more than 29,627
3 acres of federally managed land and wildlife; and

4 WHEREAS, Willacy County Commissioners Court recognize the
5 importance of U.S. Department of Interior objectives as the
6 nation's natural resource caretaker with aim to promote public
7 lands, wildlife, environmental sustainable energy and preserve
8 cultural heritage.

9 WHEREAS, Willacy County is a rural community with the
10 diligence of its county leadership to promote its cultural
11 heritage, join with businesses, governmental and civic
12 organizations in alliance, partnership and contractual agreements
13 to foster professional relations aimed to promote a diversified
14 economy while it also maintains its agricultural values, supports
15 conservation of natural resources and wildlife preservation.

16 WHEREAS, The community of Willacy County is a unique regional
17 community known for its abundant natural resources adding economic
18 growth, technology, environmental and energy conservation goals
19 with the recent completion of 600 megawatts wind farm operations
20 facilitating green energy source to South and Central Texas
21 communities, headquarter to a fiber optic corporate office
22 facilitating jobs, rural and regional access to Internet,
23 communication technology and over \$20 million energy capital
24 investment expenditure includes current energy exploration in

1 portions of the U.S. public lands located in Willacy County.

2 WHEREAS, Visitors and residents alike enjoy the Santa Ana
3 National Wildlife Refuge, the Tieniente and East Lake - Sal del Rey
4 sections of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge,
5 the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, and the Padre Island
6 National Seashore--Laguna Madre;

7 WHEREAS, Willacy County joins other Lower Rio Grande Valley
8 tourist organization and the regional U.S. Wildlife Refuge to show
9 case natural landscapes, wildlife and promote an average of \$400
10 million annual tourist economic impact to the region; as a result,
11 the development of the Coastal Land Resource Center and Laguna
12 Point Recreation Area at Port Mansfield are also vital to enhance
13 environmental science education, outdoor recreation activities,
14 conservation and viewing of wildlife including various public
15 infrastructure improvements to promote the fishing industry,
16 access to, and appreciation of, the area's great outdoors are
17 currently in development, with completion dates set for 2014; and

18 WHEREAS, Willacy Commissioners Court in 2009, entered a
19 Mutual Partnership Agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
20 Service, Santa Ana Wildlife Refuge - South Texas complex to promote
21 ecotourism, accessible roadways, and to manage and preserve its
22 pristine environments; and

23 WHEREAS, U.S. Department of Interior appointed Secretary,
24 Sally Jewell intimately understands the vital role of environmental
25 sustainable energy, ecotourism, preserved cultural heritage plays
26 in local and state economies, and it is indeed appropriate to invite
27 her to see firsthand how the abundant natural resources of Willacy

1 County are helping to drive its economy; now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
3 Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby extend an official
4 invitation to U.S. Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior,
5 Sally Jewell to visit Willacy County to learn more about the
6 county's achievements and other areas in the Lower Rio Grande
7 Valley with tour plans relating to the protection and enhancement
8 of the area's environment; and, be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the chief clerk forward an official copy of
10 this resolution to the U.S. Department of Interior.