

By: Anchia

H.C.R. No. 80

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Since the implementation of the North American Free
2 Trade Agreement in 1994, trade between the United States and Mexico
3 has risen dramatically, and as the volume of goods crossing the
4 border has increased, so have wait times at points of entry; and

5 WHEREAS, Mexico is our state's largest trade partner and the
6 nation's third-largest trade partner; in 2012, more than \$229
7 billion in trade passed through the Laredo customs district and
8 over \$86 billion passed through the El Paso customs district;
9 moreover, the United States and Mexican economies are profoundly
10 linked because many products are manufactured jointly in Mexico and
11 the United States, and materials and parts often cross back and
12 forth between factories on each side of the border during assembly;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The free flow of commerce across the Mexican border
15 is of critical importance, but the capacity of the ports of entry to
16 accommodate the increase in traffic has not kept pace with the
17 expansion of trade; long and unpredictable wait times leave
18 vehicles idling for hours during peak times, having a negative
19 impact on the environment and the health of people living near the
20 border, as well as on the economy; and

21 WHEREAS, Congestion at points of entry along the border costs
22 the United States and Mexico billions of dollars each year, and
23 increasing efficiency at these crucial corridors would be a
24 tremendous benefit to the prosperity of our state and nation; now,

1 therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas
3 hereby request the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house
4 of representatives to create a joint interim committee to study the
5 effects on international trade of wait times at Texas points of
6 entry between the United States and Mexico; and, be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the committee submit a full report, including
8 findings and recommendations, to the 84th Texas Legislature when it
9 convenes in January 2015.