

By: Bonnen of Brazoria

H.C.R. No. 81

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Fifty years ago this year, the State of Texas
2 entered into an agreement with the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission to
3 assume regulatory and licensing authority over certain radioactive
4 materials in the Lone Star State; and

5 WHEREAS, On January 10, 1963, Governor Price Daniel agreed to
6 have Texas take responsibility for the oversight of radioactive
7 materials in the state, with the exception of special nuclear
8 material in excess of a critical mass and radioactive material that
9 was used by federal agencies; the agreement went into effect on
10 March 1, 1963, making Texas the fifth state to become an "agreement
11 state" under Section 274 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954; and

12 WHEREAS, This historic pact remains in effect with the AEC's
13 successor agency, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; in addition to
14 the functions outlined in the original agreement, Texas is one of
15 only three agreement states with regulatory authority over uranium
16 recovery and the disposal of low-level radioactive waste; the Texas
17 Commission on Environmental Quality regulates uranium, disposal of
18 low-level radioactive waste, and non-oil and gas naturally
19 occurring radioactive material waste; and

20 WHEREAS, The Texas Department of State Health Services
21 regulates the 1,700 other radioactive material licensees, as well
22 as 20,000 x-ray and laser medical facilities, including those that
23 perform mammography; Texas was the first state, in fact, to enact
24 laser regulations; DSHS is also the lead agency for emergency

1 response planning in regard to nuclear accidents and other
2 emergencies involving radiation; and

3 WHEREAS, Uranium and other radioactive products are
4 essential to research, industry, and medicine in the 21st century,
5 and for 50 years, the State of Texas has capably and safely
6 regulated the use of these invaluable materials; now, therefore, be
7 it

8 RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas
9 hereby commemorate the 50th anniversary of the agreement between
10 the State of Texas and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and pay
11 tribute to those state agencies and their employees responsible for
12 this agreement's implementation.