CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The cowboy hat has long been associated with residents of the Lone Star State, and for many years, the city of Garland has been home to the leading manufacturers of this emblematic Texan headgear; and

WHEREAS, John B. Stetson first invented the hat that came to be known as the "Boss of the Plains" in 1865, and in 1927, a Michigan investor named E. R. Byer and a hatmaker named Harry Rolnick founded the Byer-Rolnick company in Dallas to manufacture the brand of cowboy hat called Resistol, for its ability to resist all weathers; and

WHEREAS, Thanks to a growing demand, Byer-Rolnick opened a larger factory in Garland in 1938, where Resistol hats have been made ever since; Stetsons are now made in Garland as well, along with the western fashion hats made by the Charlie 1 Horse Hat Company; all three companies are part of Hatco, which is headquartered in Garland and employs nearly 400 people; and

WHEREAS, The concentration of hat-making talent in Garland has led to the formation of several other companies; Master Hatters of Texas was founded in 1968 by a former Byer-Rolnick employee, William Cook, and the Milano Hat Company, founded by John Milano in 1983, opened a new facility in 2006; Dallas Hats has been making palm leaf and raffia cowboy hats in the city since 1989; and

WHEREAS, Garland is also home to the Dallas County Manufacturing Association and the Garland Chamber of Commerce, and
their essential contributions to the community's manufacturing-minded environment make the city an ideal location for businesses of all sorts; and

WHEREAS, The production of cowboy hats contributes not only to the Texas economy, but to the rich cultural history of our state, and the city of Garland may indeed take great pride in its central role in the design and manufacture of this iconic Texas product;

now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas hereby designate Garland as the Cowboy Hat Capital of Texas.