

By: Farrar

H.R. No. 345

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Matthew Steven Tejada of Houston has been
2 selected to serve as director of the Environmental Protection
3 Agency Office of Environmental Justice; and

4 WHEREAS, A native of Fort Worth, Dr. Tejada attended The
5 University of Texas at Austin, where his high marks earned him
6 induction into the Texas Alpha Chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa
7 National Honor Society; in 2000, he graduated magna cum laude with a
8 bachelor's degree in English and enlisted in the Peace Corps for two
9 years; he subsequently resumed his studies at St. Antony's College
10 at the University of Oxford, where he earned a master's degree in
11 Russian and East European studies in 2004 and a doctorate in history
12 two years later; and

13 WHEREAS, On returning to Austin, Dr. Tejada joined the Texas
14 Public Interest Research Group and served as an advocate on a range
15 of consumer rights issues; shortly thereafter, in 2007, he was
16 appointed executive director of the Galveston-Houston Association
17 for Smog Prevention (GHASP), with the unanimous approval of the
18 board; seeing the opportunity to expand the organization's scope
19 and influence, he orchestrated the merger of GHASP with Mothers for
20 Clean Air to form Air Alliance Houston (AAH), which he has ably led
21 for the past several years; and

22 WHEREAS, In his capacity as head of AAH, Dr. Tejada has guided
23 research, education, and advocacy efforts, while forging statewide
24 alliances and winning the support of prominent figures for the

1 group's initiatives; deeply devoted to the cause of ensuring clean
2 air for all Texans, he helped mobilize low-income and minority
3 communities, which have been disproportionately affected by
4 problems associated with industrial waste; in addition, he worked
5 to reduce hot spots of toxic air pollutants along the Houston Ship
6 Channel and helped launch a website that allows Houston residents
7 to check smog levels at specific locations in real time; and

8 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Dr. Tejada has drawn
9 inspiration from the love of his wife, Denitsa, and their daughter,
10 Nia; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Tejada has helped build safer, healthier
12 communities while earning widespread recognition as a leader in the
13 campaign for responsible environmental policy, and the experience
14 that he has gained is sure to be of immense benefit as he continues
15 his important work at the national level; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
17 Legislature hereby congratulate Dr. Matthew Tejada on his selection
18 as director of the Environmental Protection Agency Office of
19 Environmental Justice and extend to him sincere best wishes for
20 continued success; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for Dr. Tejada as an expression of high regard by the Texas
23 House of Representatives.