

By: McClendon

H.R. No. 1138

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Noted musician Ray Benson has given generously of
2 his time and talents to promote water conservation, a top priority
3 in the drought-plagued Lone Star State; and

4 WHEREAS, An Austin resident since the early 1970s, Mr. Benson
5 leads the band Asleep at the Wheel, long the standard-bearer for
6 western swing and Bob Wills's music; he has written a host of
7 popular songs, among them "Dance With Who Brung You," "Texas Me and
8 You," and "The Letter That Johnny Walker Read"; and

9 WHEREAS, This civic-minded Texan has championed
10 environmental causes since the 1990s, when he became involved with
11 Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve; in addition to serving on its
12 board, he has performed at a number of benefits in its behalf; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2008, Mr. Benson joined the Austin Water Utility
14 campaign to encourage water conservation; he composed a catchy
15 jingle titled "Observe & Conserve," advising consumers to "watch
16 your water like it was your son or daughter," and his sonorous
17 baritone has reached innumerable television viewers with this
18 urgent message; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Benson has continued to serve as a voice for
20 water conservation, sharing his knowledge of simple actions that
21 can save water in daily life; moreover, he sets an inspiring example
22 of environmental stewardship through his own implementation of such
23 measures as a rainwater collection system; and

24 WHEREAS, Deeply appreciative of the state's natural beauty,

1 Mr. Benson served as the narrator for *Wildflowers: Seeds of*
2 *History*, a 2011 documentary for public television station KLRU and
3 the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center; he has also lent his
4 support to a number of worthy causes in the Central Texas area; a
5 founder and board member of the Health Alliance for Austin
6 Musicians and the SIMS Foundation, he has served on the boards of
7 KLRU/Austin City Limits, St. David's Community Healthcare
8 Foundation, and the Texas Cultural Trust, as well as on the advisory
9 boards of Austin Lyric Opera and Ballet Austin; in October 2011, he
10 produced a star-studded benefit concert that raised more than \$1
11 million in one evening for the victims of area wildfires; and

12 WHEREAS, The recipient of numerous musical accolades, among
13 them nine Grammy Awards, Mr. Benson has also been recognized for his
14 contributions to the wider community; he was named the 2011 Texan of
15 the Year by the Texas Legislative Conference; and

16 WHEREAS, The availability of water is crucial to the
17 well-being of all Texans and to the prosperity of the Lone Star
18 State, and through his commitment to the cause of conservation, Ray
19 Benson is helping to build a brighter future for generations to
20 come; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
22 Legislature hereby honor Ray Benson for his dedicated efforts to
23 promote water conservation and extend to him sincere best wishes
24 for continued success with this important endeavor; and, be it
25 further

26 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
27 prepared for Mr. Benson as an expression of high regard by the Texas

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1 House of Representatives.