

By: Rodriguez

S.C.R. No. 27

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Rio Grande basin, a binational water resource,
3 is faced with serious environmental challenges due to increasing
4 development along the river in both Mexico and the United States;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, A vital source of water for municipalities,
7 industry, agriculture, and Native American tribes, the Rio Grande
8 also supports nationally significant ecosystems for fish and
9 wildlife; along the river, the Chihuahuan Desert of New Mexico and
10 Texas is home to tremendous biodiversity; and

11 WHEREAS, Nothing stated in this resolution is intended to
12 apply to the interpretation or application of any interstate
13 compact or treaty; and

14 WHEREAS, Recognizing the critical importance of the Rio
15 Grande basin, the federal government established the Rio Grande
16 Environmental Management Program under Section 5056 of the Water
17 Resources Development Act of 2007 and authorized funding of up to
18 \$15 million annually for projects along the river's main stem and
19 tributaries; moreover, the Act instructed the secretary of the army
20 to direct the rehabilitation and enhancement of fish and wildlife
21 habitat in partnership with local sponsors and to implement
22 long-term monitoring, data collection and analysis, applied
23 research, and adaptive management; and

24 WHEREAS, The Rio Grande Environmental Management Program

1 authority expired in September 2011, before any funds were
2 appropriated to carry it out; since then, water quality and the
3 environment have continued to deteriorate, and the need for
4 coordinated and collaborative action has become ever more urgent;
5 now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas
7 hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to reauthorize
8 Section 5056 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 and to
9 appropriate sufficient funds to carry out work related to that
10 legislation; and, be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
12 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
13 the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of
14 representatives of the United States Congress, to the commanding
15 general of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, to the
16 assistant secretary of the United States Army (Civil Works), to the
17 commanders of the Albuquerque, Fort Worth, and Galveston Districts
18 of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, to the chair of the
19 Council on Environmental Quality, and to all the members of the
20 Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution
21 be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to
22 the Congress of the United States of America.