

By: Flynn

H.C.R. No. 61

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of the federal government  
2 to fully maintain the security of the Texas-Mexico international  
3 border; and

4 WHEREAS, The federal government has neglected its duty to  
5 fully maintain the security of the Texas-Mexico international  
6 border; and

7 WHEREAS, An unprotected border facilitates drug smuggling  
8 and human trafficking and opens the door to spillover violence from  
9 criminal cartels; moreover, the ease with which members of  
10 terrorist organizations can enter the country poses a grave threat  
11 to homeland security; and

12 WHEREAS, The federal government's failure to prevent illegal  
13 entry has shifted much of the responsibility to the State of Texas;  
14 consequently, budget writers must weigh the costs of border  
15 security against the expense of other state services; during the  
16 2012-2013 budget cycle, Texas spent \$221,600,000 on border security  
17 operations, and in the 2014-2015 budget, the state appropriated  
18 \$343,300,000 for such expenditures; and

19 WHEREAS, Furthermore, Governor Rick Perry transferred  
20 \$38,700,000 from a state law enforcement fund in 2014 to pay for  
21 deploying additional Department of Public Safety officers and  
22 National Guard troops along the Texas-Mexico border; and

23 WHEREAS, The executive branch and the United States Congress  
24 have consistently delayed meaningful action on border security,

1 forcing Texas to expend significant resources to keep the  
2 international border with Mexico secure and placing an undue burden  
3 on the state's taxpayers; now, therefore, be it

4       RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas  
5 hereby express its dissatisfaction with the federal government's  
6 inadequate efforts to secure the Texas-Mexico international  
7 border; and, be it further

8       RESOLVED, That the 84th Texas Legislature respectfully urge  
9 the Congress of the United States to reimburse the State of Texas in  
10 the amount of \$603,600,000 for bearing the financial burden of the  
11 federal government's responsibility to secure the Texas-Mexico  
12 international border from 2012 through 2015; and, be it further

13       RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official  
14 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to  
15 the president of the Senate and to the speaker of the House of  
16 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the  
17 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that  
18 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a  
19 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.