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H.C.R. No. 63

#### CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The United States is the world's largest producer of  
2 natural gas, but antiquated trade restrictions limit the potential  
3 of this industry as an engine of economic growth; and

4 WHEREAS, In the wake of the 2008-2009 recession, the  
5 increasing extraction of natural gas from shale formations helped  
6 lift the nation's economy; this type of gas development supported  
7 more than 900,000 jobs in 2012, according to a study sponsored by  
8 the Chamber of Commerce Institute for 21st Century Energy; the  
9 majority of those jobs had been created even as overall  
10 unemployment reached some of the highest levels in a generation;  
11 the booming economy of Texas, a leader in shale gas and liquid  
12 natural gas production, is a testament to the importance of this  
13 industry; and

14 WHEREAS, Natural gas exports also play an important  
15 geopolitical role; Russia has been the dominant provider of liquid  
16 natural gas to European countries, and much of the LNG that they use  
17 flows through pipelines that cross Ukraine; recent turmoil there  
18 has threatened energy supplies to Europe, prompting efforts to  
19 diversify its sources of LNG; and

20 WHEREAS, Currently, an American company can export liquid  
21 natural gas only to the limited group of countries with which the  
22 United States has existing free trade agreements, unless the firm  
23 obtains a license by undergoing an onerous application process  
24 through the Department of Energy; the review of LNG export

1 applications has been extremely slow, resulting in costly and  
2 unnecessary delays in exports to many of our trading partners;  
3 moreover, this barrier contradicts the nation's historic trade  
4 policy and inhibits compliance with World Trade Organization rules;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The expansion of natural gas exports to all  
7 countries within the World Trade Organization would bring the  
8 United States in line with its WTO obligations and build ties with  
9 East Asia and other parts of the world; expediting these exports  
10 will spur additional investment in new domestic production and  
11 increase global supplies of a critical energy source; and

12 WHEREAS, At present, the costly and time-consuming  
13 regulatory limitations on the export of natural gas hinder trade  
14 expansion and job creation and work against the national security  
15 interests of the United States; by ending these constraints and  
16 increasing global supplies of a critical energy source, the nation  
17 can strengthen its position on the world stage while allowing the  
18 energy sector to amplify its vital contributions to economic  
19 growth; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas  
21 hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to expedite  
22 natural gas exports; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state forward official copies  
24 of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the  
25 president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of  
26 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the  
27 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that

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1 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a  
2 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.