By: Seliger S.C.R. No. 22

## 1 CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, In 1877, Charles Goodnight became the manager of the JA Ranch in the Caprock Canyonlands of the Texas Panhandle; the 3 4 once-great bison herds of the area had been slaughtered almost to the point of extinction; at the urging of his wife, Mary Ann, 5 6 Goodnight rounded up enough of the creatures to form a small herd, which allowed the Southern Plains Bison population to survive; and 7 8 WHEREAS, In 1880, Goodnight acquired the Lazy F Ranch and renamed it "Quitaque," which he believed was an Indian word for "end 9 10 of the trail"; Quitaque is located on State Highway 86 in southeastern Briscoe County; when the county was organized in 1892, 11

12 the townsite of Quitaque was surveyed and platted; and

WHEREAS, Caprock Canyons State Park, located approximately
three miles north of Quitaque, was acquired from the estate of
Theodore Geisler in May 1975; the park opened in 1982 and is the
third-largest state park in Texas; and

WHEREAS, The park is home to the "Official State Bison Herd of Texas"; these bison are direct descendants of the last free-range Southern Plains Bison that the Goodnights saved from extinction; the herd was donated to the park in 1996 by the JA Ranch, which is the oldest privately owned ranch in the Texas Panhandle; and

WHEREAS, For many years, the citizens of Quitaque encouraged the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to establish a state park in the Quitaque area and encouraged the donation of the JA Ranch Bison

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- 1 Herd to the state park; and
- WHEREAS, O. R. Stark Jr., born in Quitaque, understood the
- 3 need for a friends group for Caprock Canyons State Park and
- 4 Trailway; he was instrumental in forming Caprock Partners
- 5 Foundation in 1996 and served as foundation president until his
- 6 death; the foundation has supported the park and its historic bison
- 7 habitat as environmental and recreational treasures; now,
- 8 therefore, be it
- 9 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas
- 10 hereby designate the City of Quitaque to be the official Bison
- 11 Capital of Texas; and, be it further
- 12 RESOLVED, That in accordance with the provisions of Section
- 13 391.003(e), Government Code, this designation remain in effect
- 14 until the 10th anniversary of its designation.