By: Taylor of Galveston, et al. S.C.R. No. 37 (Paul)

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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## 2 WHEREAS, The Pentagon could realize significant savings by relocating the United States Africa Command from Germany to 3 4 Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base in Houston; and 5 WHEREAS, When AFRICOM was created in 2007, the Department of Defense chose a temporary location in Stuttgart; it intended to 6 7 select a permanent headquarters in Africa, but set this plan aside due to cost projections and the sensitivities of African nations; 8 9 and 10 WHEREAS, The Department of Defense conducted a study in 2012 11 that found maintaining AFRICOM headquarters stateside would cost \$60 million to \$70 million less per year; although relocation would 12 13 involve expense, this expense could be recouped within two to six 14 years; moreover, the relocation would create as many as 4,300 additional jobs for United States residents, and it would have an 15 annual impact on the local economy ranging from \$350 million to \$45016 million; and 17 18 WHEREAS, Should the defense department decide to relocate 19 AFRICOM, Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base in Houston would be an 20 ideal home for the headquarters; the base features strong joint 21 service military value of active duty, reserve, and guard units 22 from all five United States armed services, some of which presently 23 conduct training and operational missions for AFRICOM; it is also

equipped to handle military aircraft, and the city boasts one of the

community

nation's most vibrant ports; moreover, the

- 1 exceptionally supportive of the military, and the Greater Houston
- 2 area has strong cultural, educational, medical, and diplomatic ties
- 3 with Africa; and
- 4 WHEREAS, The Government Accountability Office has concluded
- 5 that the relocation of AFRICOM to the United States would generate
- 6 tremendous cost savings and economic benefits, and Ellington Field
- 7 Joint Reserve Base offers advantages that would enhance the
- 8 effectiveness of the headquarters; now, therefore, be it
- 9 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas
- 10 hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to direct the
- 11 Department of Defense to relocate the United States Africa Command
- 12 to Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base in Houston; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
- 14 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
- 15 the secretary of the Department of Defense, to the president of the
- 16 Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives of the United
- 17 States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to
- 18 Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the
- 19 Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United
- 20 States of America.