

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 68

**WHEREAS**, For more than 50 years, Big Bend Telephone Company of Alpine has provided outstanding telecommunications services to the Big Bend region; and

**WHEREAS**, The company pioneered telecommunications throughout the 17,000 square miles of its sparsely populated service area, only 16 percent of which has cellular coverage; this area includes 485 miles of the Texas-Mexico border and almost 25 percent of the nation's southern border; and

**WHEREAS**, Recently, Big Bend Telephone Company provided new infrastructure and services that allowed the opening of Boquillas Crossing as an unmanned border checkpoint; the reopening of this border crossing, which is the only one in the 300 miles between Presidio and Del Rio, will contribute to economic development in the area and will be an important boon to tourism; and

**WHEREAS**, In recognition of this unique and innovative project, BBT was presented with a "Special Recognition: Homeland Security" award at the Rural Broadband Association's 2014 Smart Rural Community Awards event held at the National Telephone Cooperative Association's fall conference in San Francisco; and

**WHEREAS**, Big Bend Telephone Company has made a crucial and lasting contribution to this state and nation, and it is truly deserving of special commendation; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 84th Legislature, hereby commend Big Bend Telephone Company for its outstanding contributions to the community and its commitment to national security and extend to everyone associated with the company sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for Big Bend Telephone Company as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 3, 2015.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate