

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 623**

**WHEREAS,** The Sustainable Dairy Goat Initiative, a student-run, nonprofit organization, seeks to help impoverished individuals both at home and abroad to achieve a brighter future; and

**WHEREAS,** Founded in the summer of 2014 by Samuel Garcia, the Sustainable Dairy Goat Initiative provides dairy goats and other sustainable food sources to those in need; currently, the group is cooperating with the colonia outreach program La Union Del Pueblo Entero to assist residents of colonias in Hidalgo County, where the initiative is supplying families with both goats and seed for prickly pear cactus; the prickly pear was chosen for cultivation because it is an easy-to-grow plant that can survive in harsh conditions and because almost every part of the plant is edible; the cactus can even serve as roughage for the goats when feed stocks are low; ultimately, the initiative intends to supply 20 to 30 families in the area and then help them to form a cooperative; and

**WHEREAS,** Another goal of the initiative is to provide funding for research related to sustainable agriculture; leaders of the initiative are presently engaged in talks with the charity Farm Africa to help it finance a value chain analysis in behalf of dairy goat farmers in Kenya; and

**WHEREAS,** The Sustainable Dairy Goat Initiative is led by a board composed of Mr. Garcia, Tom Jackson, Nelson Chen, and Will Herbst, all of whom attend The University of Texas at Austin; branches of the organization have been established at The University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M University, Texas Christian University, and Texas State University; and

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**WHEREAS**, By working to address the complex problem of rural poverty through such simple means as dairy goats, cactus seeds, and cooperation, the Sustainable Dairy Goat Initiative is providing a model for effective aid and helping a number of less-advantaged Texans to build a more secure future for themselves and their children; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 84th Legislature, hereby honor the Sustainable Dairy Goat Initiative for its humanitarian efforts and extend to all those associated with the group sincere best wishes for continued success.

Hinojosa

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 23, 2015.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate