

By: Longoria

H.R. No. 371

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The pecan enjoys an iconic status among Texans,
2 beloved for its delicious taste as well as its importance to the
3 state's economy; and

4 WHEREAS, Dating to prehistoric times, the pecan tree grows
5 naturally in most of the state's river valleys; native to 152 of the
6 254 counties, it is grown commercially in an even wider area, and
7 many Texas residents delight in harvesting the pecans in their
8 yards; and

9 WHEREAS, One of the healthiest nuts, the pecan is
10 cholesterol- and gluten-free and high in antioxidants, and it
11 contains 19 vitamins and minerals; it is also a natural source of
12 high-quality protein and dietary fiber; and

13 WHEREAS, The pecan has long been a profitable crop for Texas
14 farmers, and it is the only commercially grown nut in the state; as
15 early as the 1850s, the Port of Galveston alone was exporting
16 thousands of bushels each year, and by 1910, Texas produced nearly
17 six million pounds of pecans annually; in the past century, the
18 state has become one of the leading commercial producers of pecans
19 in the nation; in 2014, it produced 61 million pounds, which
20 contributed nearly \$108 million to the Texas economy; and

21 WHEREAS, Beyond its financial value, the pecan is prized for
22 its rich flavor and for the diverse roles it plays in the culinary
23 world, enriching everything from salads to side dishes to desserts;
24 the reverence that Texans have for the nut is reflected in the

1 official honors it has received through the years; in 1919, the 36th
2 Texas Legislature declared the pecan tree the state tree, in 1995,
3 the 74th Legislature proclaimed pecan pie as the state pie, and in
4 2001, the 77th Legislature designated the pecan as the state's
5 official health nut; and

6 WHEREAS, Texas is one of few places where pecans are
7 harvested in October, making that month a fitting time to pay
8 tribute to the contributions of the pecan industry and to honor the
9 special affection that residents of the Lone Star State have for
10 this distinctly Texan delicacy; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
12 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby recognize October 2017 as
13 Texas Pecan Month.