

By: Springer

H.C.R. No. 30

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The Red River Boundary Compact of 2000 set the  
2 boundary between Texas and Oklahoma at the vegetation line on the  
3 south bank of the Red River, with the exception of the Texoma area,  
4 where the boundary is established pursuant to procedures outlined  
5 in the agreement; and

6           WHEREAS, In 2013, the United States Bureau of Land Management  
7 began developing a resource management plan for the use of land  
8 along a 116-mile stretch of the Red River; it claims that as many as  
9 90,000 acres in Texas may actually be part of federal lands and  
10 would therefore be public land under a 1923 Supreme Court ruling;  
11 and

12           WHEREAS, Many Texas residents have held title to this land  
13 for generations, and they have been paying property taxes on the  
14 land while cultivating and maintaining it; the boundary between the  
15 states was settled in 2000 for legal jurisdiction, when the U.S.  
16 Congress ratified the compact, but now, confusion over the boundary  
17 threatens the value of this privately owned land and makes it  
18 difficult for property owners to make informed decisions concerning  
19 its disposition and their livelihoods; and

20           WHEREAS, Private property rights are the bedrock of a free  
21 society, and the actions of the Bureau of Land Management with  
22 regard to land covered by the Red River Boundary Compact are an  
23 egregious example of federal overreach; now, therefore, be it

24           RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas

1 hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to direct the  
2 Bureau of Land Management to affirm the provisions of the Red River  
3 Boundary Compact and to acknowledge that the vegetation line on the  
4 south bank of the Red River forms the boundary between Oklahoma and  
5 Texas; and, be it further

6         RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official  
7 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to  
8 the secretary of the United States Department of the Interior, to  
9 the director of the United States Bureau of Land Management, to the  
10 president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of  
11 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the  
12 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that  
13 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a  
14 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.