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H.C.R. No. 106

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Texas has been the nation's top exporting state for
2 the last 14 consecutive years, with an estimated \$650 billion in
3 trade in 2015 alone; exports support some 1.6 million jobs and
4 contribute over \$200 billion to the gross state product; and

5 WHEREAS, The Gulf Coast region of Texas plays a crucial role
6 in the prosperity of the state, as it is home not only to the largest
7 concentration of petrochemical manufacturing and refining
8 facilities in the United States but also to the federal Strategic
9 Petroleum Reserve and a vital supply of aviation jet fuel for
10 military and commercial use; in addition, Texas ports along the
11 Gulf Coast are integral to the chemical manufacturing industry and
12 to both the state and national economies; and

13 WHEREAS, This Gulf Coast region, however, is vulnerable to
14 major weather events, including intense hurricanes, which in the
15 recent past have devastated area cities by causing significant loss
16 of life, destroying residential and commercial property, damaging
17 sensitive ecosystems, and weakening local economies; and

18 WHEREAS, In response to the havoc wreaked by Hurricanes Ike
19 and Rita, researchers at the Center for Texas Beaches and Shores at
20 Texas A&M University at Galveston designed the Coastal Spine; plans
21 for implementing the structure have included consideration of
22 scientific research, historical storm data, and existing systems;
23 moreover, the environmental impact such an apparatus would have on
24 the surrounding area and waterway is being vigorously evaluated,

1 and the study is expected to be completed in the summer of 2017; and

2 WHEREAS, The Gulf Coast Community Protection and Recovery
3 District, composed of Orange, Jefferson, Chambers, Harris,
4 Galveston, and Brazoria Counties, was created by Governor Rick
5 Perry in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike; its board, which
6 represents more than 6.5 million residents who live in the upper
7 Gulf Coast area, has determined that the Coastal Spine is the best
8 method for protecting against storm surges along the Texas coast;
9 the concept has also gained widespread support from residents,
10 businesses, and elected officials throughout the coastal region;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, The General Land Office of the State of Texas is
13 committed to partnering with the United States Army Corps of
14 Engineers to implement the construction of the Coastal Spine; and

15 WHEREAS, The Texas Legislature is committed to the creation
16 of a special purpose district within the Gulf Coast Region in order
17 to fund the ongoing operations and maintenance of any structures
18 and facilities related to the Coastal Spine; and

19 WHEREAS, The potential benefits of the Coastal Spine are
20 manifold, ranging from preserving life and property to spurring
21 economic growth and cutting state expenses for disaster assistance,
22 and it is necessary for the U.S. government to provide aid and
23 support for further research, design, and construction of the
24 coastal barrier; now, therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas
26 hereby express its support for the development and construction of
27 a coastal barrier to protect the Gulf Coast region of Texas from

1 storm surges; and, be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the Texas Legislature hereby urge the United
3 States Congress to provide sufficient federal funding for the
4 construction of the project; and, be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the Texas Legislature hereby urge the U.S.
6 Congress to expedite the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers design and
7 construction process; and, be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
9 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
10 the 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.