

By: Turner

H.C.R. No. 128

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, On June 14, 2016, the *Washington Post* reported that
2 the Russian government had penetrated the computer network of the
3 Democratic National Committee and that Russian government hackers
4 had targeted the networks of both presidential candidates, as well
5 as the computers of some Republican political action committees;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Indications of Russian interference in the
8 electoral process continued to mount in the ensuing months; the
9 *Post* reported that the FBI had alerted Arizona election officials
10 in June that Russians were behind an assault on their state's voter
11 registration system; as a result, election officials shut down the
12 system for nearly a week; according to the FBI, a similar attack on
13 the state voter registration database in Illinois appeared to offer
14 further evidence of Russian interest in U.S. elections; on October
15 7, 2016, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Office of
16 the Director of National Intelligence issued a joint statement
17 expressing confidence that "the Russian Government directed the
18 recent compromises of e-mails from U.S. persons and institutions,
19 including from U.S. political organizations"; and

20 WHEREAS, In response to these incursions, President Barack
21 Obama released a December 29, 2016, executive order "taking
22 additional steps to address the national emergency with respect to
23 significant malicious cyber-enabled activities"; the order blocked
24 all property and interests in property in the United States

1 belonging to five entities based in Russia and four individuals of
2 Russian nationality; in addition, the White House ordered 35
3 Russian operatives to leave the U.S., and it closed two
4 Russian-owned facilities believed to have been used for
5 intelligence purposes; and

6 WHEREAS, Just eight days later, the Office of the Director of
7 National Intelligence released an Intelligence Community
8 Assessment of Russian activities and intentions in recent U.S.
9 elections, which determined that Russian president Vladimir Putin
10 ordered his country's campaign to influence the 2016 U.S.
11 presidential election, that the campaign was multifaceted, that the
12 influence effort was the boldest yet in the United States, and that
13 the election operation signaled a "new normal" in Russian influence
14 endeavors; the U.S. intelligence community also assessed with high
15 confidence that Russian military intelligence relayed U.S. victim
16 data to WikiLeaks and that Russian intelligence obtained and
17 maintained access to elements of multiple U.S. state or local
18 electoral boards; and

19 WHEREAS, FBI Director James Comey testified before the House
20 Intelligence Committee on March 20, 2017, to confirm his agency's
21 wide-ranging investigation of Russian meddling in the 2016
22 presidential election, which was ordered by President Vladimir
23 Putin to undermine Hillary Clinton's bid for office and improve the
24 odds for Donald Trump; Mr. Comey noted that the Russians were
25 successful in injecting "chaos and discord" into the electoral
26 process and consequently could be expected to resume such
27 activities in future elections, and revealed that the FBI is

1 looking into possible coordination between the Kremlin and the
2 Trump campaign; in another recent revelation, the Associated Press
3 reported on March 22 that former Trump campaign manager Paul
4 Manafort had secretly worked for a Russian oligarch to influence
5 politics, business dealings, and news coverage for the benefit of
6 Vladimir Putin; and

7 WHEREAS, In light of these reports of Russian interference in
8 U.S. elections, it is the fundamental responsibility of Congress to
9 decide where, how, and by whom financial resources in its control
10 should be invested with regard to Russia; our government should not
11 provide funds that can be used to facilitate the Russian
12 government's campaign to influence our election processes; now,
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas
15 hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to bar
16 investments in Russia until investigations into Russian
17 interference with U.S. elections have been completed; and, be it
18 further

19 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
20 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
21 the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of
22 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the
23 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that
24 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a
25 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.