

By: Canales

H.R. No. 1173

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The celebration of Rio Grande International Trade
2 Day at the State Capitol on March 30, 2017, provides a welcome
3 opportunity to highlight cross-border commerce as a driving
4 economic force in South Texas; and

5 WHEREAS, Each year, Texas sends about 36 percent of the
6 state's total exports to Mexico, and in 2015, those exports totaled
7 nearly \$92.5 million; goods exported to Mexico include computer and
8 electronic products, petroleum and coal products, chemicals,
9 machinery, and transportation equipment, all of which are produced
10 by industries that supply hundreds of thousands of jobs to the Lone
11 Star State; and

12 WHEREAS, Since 1994, when the North American Free Trade
13 Agreement was ratified, the export of U.S. goods to Mexico has
14 risen 325 percent, while imports into the United States from Mexico
15 have increased 458 percent; in 2012, Americans spent \$277.5 billion
16 for goods from Mexico, and Mexico is America's third-largest
17 supplier of oil, after Canada and Saudi Arabia; additionally,
18 nearly half of the tomatoes and two-thirds of the mangoes consumed
19 in the United States come from Mexico; and

20 WHEREAS, This trade is especially critical to Texas border
21 cities, counties, and businesses; policy leaders in the field of
22 economic development have noted that the steady flow of trade and
23 visitors through the Rio Grande Valley is a source of economic
24 vitality; during the 2008-2009 recession, the region was not hit as

1 hard as many other parts of the nation, and over the past decade,
2 despite the devaluation of the peso, the RGV has continued to grow,
3 not just in population but in terms of retail sales taxes, permits,
4 and residential and commercial construction; and

5 WHEREAS, Mexico is the largest trading partner of Texas and
6 the third largest of the United States, and continued support for
7 vibrant international trade between our two nations is crucial to
8 the future prosperity of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
10 Legislature hereby recognize March 30, 2017, as Rio Grande
11 International Trade Day at the State Capitol and extend to all those
12 participating sincere best wishes for a productive and enjoyable
13 visit to Austin.