

By: Rodriguez of Travis

H.R. No. 1488

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Tom Smith is retiring as director of the Texas
2 office of Public Citizen on February 15, 2017, drawing to a close a
3 distinguished tenure with the organization that has spanned 32
4 years; and

5 WHEREAS, A dedicated advocate for the environment, ethics in
6 the public sphere, and campaign finance reform, "Smitty" Smith
7 joined Public Citizen in 1985; over the next three decades, he
8 helped to make Texas a national leader in renewable energy by
9 conducting studies, organizing supporters, and assembling
10 coalitions to push for wind and solar power; in addition, he worked
11 with state policy makers to develop the Texas Emissions Reduction
12 Plan, which has granted more than \$1 billion for the replacement of
13 diesel engines and has cut more than 160,000 tons of smog-forming
14 nitrogen oxides; and

15 WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan also mobilized citizens to stop
16 the construction of proposed coal and nuclear power plants, and he
17 provided crucial support for the state's building energy code, a
18 piece of legislation that has brought about significant reductions
19 in energy use by new homes; moreover, he has played a key role in the
20 crafting and passage of major ethics reforms, including the
21 creation of the state's ethics commission; during his exemplary
22 tenure, he has testified before the Texas Legislature and the
23 U.S. Congress more than 1,000 times; and

24 WHEREAS, In 2001, Mr. Smith was named "Best People's

1 Lobbyist" by the *Austin Chronicle*, and the newspaper gave him its
2 Best Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016; his many other accolades
3 include the Environmental Excellence Award from the EPA, the
4 Achievement in Advocacy Award from the American Wind Energy
5 Association, and the prestigious Heinz Award; and

6 WHEREAS, An Illinois native, Mr. Smith holds a bachelor's
7 degree in urban studies from Valparaiso University; he moved to
8 Kingsville in 1974 to become a VISTA volunteer, and he went on to
9 serve as food bank development coordinator for Second Harvest Food
10 Bank, as director of the Houston Food Bank and of the Southwest
11 Regional Office of the Community Nutrition Institute, and as a
12 legal assistant with Texas Rural Legal Aid and Prairie State Legal
13 Services; and

14 WHEREAS, A tremendously inspiring, dynamic leader, Smitty
15 Smith has made an immeasurable impact on the Lone Star State, and in
16 so doing, he has earned the lasting respect and gratitude of his
17 fellow citizens; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
19 Legislature hereby congratulate Tom "Smitty" Smith on the occasion
20 of his retirement as director of the Texas office of Public Citizen
21 and extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it
22 further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
24 prepared for Mr. Smith as an expression of high regard by the Texas
25 House of Representatives.