

By: Ashby

H.R. No. 1654

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Twenty-seven Texas A&M University students are
2 providing valuable support to the 85th Texas Legislature while
3 gaining experience in public service as members of the Agricultural
4 and Natural Resources Policy Internship Program and the Public
5 Policy Internship Program; and

6 WHEREAS, For more than two and a half decades, the
7 Agricultural and Natural Resources Policy Internship Program has
8 sent student interns to Austin and Washington, D.C., where they
9 work on a wide array of issues; their strong background and interest
10 in agriculture and natural resources allow them to offer
11 specialized knowledge to legislators; the program was founded in
12 response to a request by a member of the United States Congress for
13 an intern who could assist his office with these matters, and it has
14 since grown to include numerous congressional offices as well as
15 the United States House of Representatives Committee on
16 Agriculture, the United States Department of Agriculture, and
17 offices on the state level during legislative years; approximately
18 900 students have participated in semester-long internships; and

19 WHEREAS, The Public Policy Internship Program, established
20 in 1999, works with various colleges and departments to create an
21 interdisciplinary environment for comprehensive academic training,
22 research, and policy programming; interns in the nation's capital
23 and in Austin serve in a variety of settings that align with their
24 academic and professional goals; some 700 students have

1 participated in semester-long internships; and

2 WHEREAS, Led by director Stephanie McMillen, both internship
3 programs select their highly qualified and dedicated participants
4 through a rigorous application process; in addition to academic
5 achievement, students must demonstrate their potential to take full
6 advantage of the opportunities for scholarly and professional
7 development as well as the desire to serve our state and nation; and

8 WHEREAS, The 2017 Texas A&M University policy interns serving
9 in Austin are Sarabeth Beauchamp, Chloe Beck, Ethan Boyd, Jordan
10 Buish, Gregory Cline, Samantha Durand, Alexandra Espinosa, Austin
11 Halvorson, Julia Hamilton, Dominique Hawkins, Christopher Johnson,
12 Allison Kessler, Michael Marucci, Kenneth McIntyre, Lauren
13 Meents, Devin Miranda Pallares, Matthew Murdoch, Siddhi Patodia,
14 MiaMarie Pugh, Abigael Romero, Lindsey Schmalriede, Jena
15 Seidemann, Jordyn Senkirik, Stephen Shuchart, Valentina Tovar,
16 Taryn Woody, and Cassidy Zgabay; and

17 WHEREAS, Through the years, the Agricultural and Natural
18 Resources Policy and Public Policy Internship Programs have helped
19 exceptional students deepen their understanding of governmental
20 operations while developing professional skills and networks, and
21 alumni have gone on to make vital contributions and assume
22 leadership roles in a variety of arenas; the outstanding young
23 people who are giving of their time and talents throughout this
24 legislative session can indeed take pride in their achievements and
25 service to the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
27 Legislature hereby recognize the Texas A&M University Agricultural

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1 and Natural Resources Policy Internship Program and the Public
2 Policy Internship Program and commend the current participants for
3 their diligence and commitment; and, be it further

4 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
5 prepared for the students as an expression of high regard from the
6 Texas House of Representatives.