

By: Uresti, et al.

S.C.R. No. 31

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The construction of a wall or fence along the
3 U.S.-Mexico border could lead the federal government to use eminent
4 domain to infringe on the rights of private landowners in Texas; and

5 WHEREAS, Privately owned land composes 67 percent of the
6 U.S.-Mexico Border, and most of that property is located in the Lone
7 Star State; border fencing has already resulted in bisecting
8 private property without the consent of landowners, and due to the
9 winding geography along the Rio Grande, a wall or more fencing would
10 need to be built inland, separating even more property of Texas
11 landowners from the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, The path of the Rio Grande boasts many of the
13 greatest natural wonders of Texas, including Big Bend National
14 Park, Big Bend Ranch State Park, the Amistad National Recreation
15 Area, and the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River; a border wall or
16 fence would undoubtedly detract from the splendor of these state
17 treasures and negatively affect tourism; and

18 WHEREAS, Instead of a barrier, the federal government should
19 continue focusing on alternative, more cost-effective measures for
20 enforcing federal law on the U.S.-Mexico border, including using
21 surveillance technology and integrating federal operations with
22 state and local law enforcement agencies; and

23 WHEREAS, Erecting a border wall or fence would constitute one
24 of the largest federal land grabs for a single security-related

1 project in our nation's history, and it is incumbent on the U.S.
2 government to enforce federal law on the southern border in a way
3 that will not violate the rights of Texas landowners, harm the state
4 economy, and waste taxpayer money; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas
6 hereby express its opposition to using eminent domain for the
7 construction of a wall or fence along the U.S.-Mexico border; and,
8 be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
10 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
11 the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the
12 Senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the
13 Texas delegation to the Congress with the request that this
14 resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a
15 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.