86R7620 KSM-D

By:  Biedermann H.C.R. No. 37

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Texas Hill Country is home to more than 50 wineries and vineyards, and Fredericksburg is the epicenter of this popular region; and

WHEREAS, Early in the history of Fredericksburg, settlers used the native mustang grape to make wine; subsequent generations refined the cultivation of grapes and production of wine, and in recent years, several wines produced by area vineyards and wineries have won state and national awards, attesting to the high quality of local viticulture; and

WHEREAS, Over 600 acres of land north and west of Fredericksburg are dedicated to growing grapes, and the concentration of vineyards and wineries along U.S. Highway 290 draws a host of tourists; visitors enjoy patronizing tasting rooms, wine cellars, festivals, and a variety of other events, and a number of guided tours have been established for the convenience of customers; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of Fredericksburg's importance as a wine-making center, the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau has established the Fredericksburg in the Texas Hill Country American Viticultural Area, one of just 242 AVA locations in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Justly proud of its German heritage, Fredericksburg was designated as the Polka Capital of Texas by the 73rd Texas Legislature in 1993; while the city's cultural roots remain a touchstone for its citizens and its many visitors, the wine industry has recently become an increasingly prominent focus of local tourism due to its rapid growth; and

WHEREAS, Hill Country wineries and vineyards contribute significantly to the prosperity of Fredericksburg, and they have brought the city international recognition that is a source of pride to the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby designate Fredericksburg as the official Wine Capital of Texas, replacing the city's previous designation as the Polka Capital of Texas; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 391.003(e), Government Code, this designation remain in effect until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally passed by the legislature.