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By:  Smith, Springer, Moody, et al. H.C.R. No. 73

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Butterfield Overland Trail, which crosses Texas and seven other states, was used by the Butterfield Overland Mail to transport mail and passengers from St. Louis and Memphis to San Francisco from 1858 to 1861; and

WHEREAS, Covering a distance of nearly 3,000 miles, the Butterfield Overland Mail was one of the longest mail routes using horse-drawn stagecoaches in the history of the United States; and

WHEREAS, On September 21, 1858, the Butterfield Overland Mail stagecoach made its first stop at the Diamond Station, just west of Whitesboro; the well-documented mail route also included stops in Sherman and El Paso; reflecting the sense of pride that Texans share about the historic Butterfield Overland Trail, the City of Whitesboro unveiled special signage in 2008 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Butterfield Overland Mail; and

WHEREAS, Today, Texans continue to use the Butterfield Overland Trail recreationally; among the historic remnants and artifacts for public use and enjoyment are historic Fort Belknap and Fort Chadbourne, which served as stops on the Butterfield Overland Mail, and a refurbished original Butterfield Overland Mail stagecoach in Whitesboro; the stagecoaches were unique because of the scenes on their doors, and no two coaches were alike; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of the Interior has determined that the Butterfield Overland Trail is eligible for designation as a National Historic Trail because it meets all of the requirements of the National Trails System Act and other requirements for designation as a National Historic Trail, namely, that the trail be nationally significant, have a well-documented route, and offer significant potential for public recreational use; and

WHEREAS, A National Historic Trail may only be designated by an Act of Congress, and congressional action to designate the Butterfield Overland Trail as a National Historic Trail would help to preserve and protect this historic route and its historic remnants and artifacts for public use and enjoyment; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to designate the Butterfield Overland Trail as a National Historic Trail; and, be it further

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