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By:  Landgraf H.R. No. 393

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Proud members of Feeding Texas are gathering in Austin to celebrate Texas Food Bank Day at the State Capitol on February 19, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Established in 1986, the Feeding Texas network consists of 21 food banks that work through more than 3,000 community agencies to reduce hunger and improve health in all 254 Texas counties; and

WHEREAS, To further these goals, the network has fostered many public-private partnerships, including the Texans Feeding Texans Surplus Agricultural Products Grant Program, which helps feed low-income families by offering incentives to growers to donate fresh produce that would otherwise be left in the field; this initiative offsets the costs of harvesting, packaging, and transportation and has resulted in the distribution of over 200 million pounds of surplus produce across the state; and

WHEREAS, Members of Feeding Texas have also established the "Feeding with Impact" partnership with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, which seeks to improve the diets of low-income Texans by distributing fresh produce and offering nutrition education and obesity prevention services; and

WHEREAS, By leveraging their expertise and experience, members of Feeding Texas respond to families in crisis swiftly and effectively when disaster strikes; Texas food banks delivered 61 million pounds of food to victims of Hurricane Harvey, served 73,000 meals, distributed 584,000 food boxes, and mobilized 26,000 volunteers for 1 million volunteer hours; and

WHEREAS, Network members have partnered with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to provide client education and application assistance for the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, greatly increasing the efficiency of the eligibility-determination process; and

WHEREAS, By facilitating the distribution of surplus food, responding to disaster, raising awareness about good dietary practices, and helping to prevent obesity, Feeding Texas is reducing hunger and contributing greatly to the health and well-being of the people of Texas; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby recognize February 19, 2019, as Texas Food Bank Day at the State Capitol and extend to the staff and volunteers of Feeding Texas sincere best wishes for continued success in their important work; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Feeding Texas as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.