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By:  Zwiener H.R. No. 1402

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The Texas Hill Country has achieved a reputation for excellence as an American viticultural area (AVA) that has made it a destination for wine connoisseurs from throughout the Lone Star State; and

WHEREAS, Covering 9.6 million acres and extending into 23 counties, the Texas Hill Country AVA is one of the largest in the United States; it lies to the north of San Antonio and west of Austin, and within its boundaries are two independent viticultural areas, Bell Mountain and Fredericksburg; and

WHEREAS, The Texas Hill Country AVA consists largely of low hills and steep canyons, with vineyards often being set at high elevations to counter the region's hot summer temperatures; Cabernet Sauvignon and Zinfandel are the key grape varieties grown in the region and are used to make both dry table wines and port-style fortified wines, while white grapes, particularly Chenin Blanc and Chardonnay varieties, are also cultivated; and

WHEREAS, Today, the Texas Hill Country is home to more than four dozen wineries and vineyards, most of which produce highly acclaimed wines; though Hill Country wines are primarily purchased and consumed locally, they have begun to acquire national recognition in recent years, and Texas vineyards have distinguished themselves among wine regions by experimenting and planting high-quality varietals, often of Mediterranean origin, that can thrive through heat and drought; and

WHEREAS, The Texas Hill Country, a jewel of our state's wine industry, has contributed much to the region's economic vitality and cultural vibrancy, and its continued growth in stature among wine aficionados from near and far is a source of great pride to the State of Texas; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby recognize the significance of the Texas Hill Country American Viticultural Area and extend to all those associated with wineries and vineyards in the region sincere best wishes for continued success.