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By:  Cyrier H.R. No. 1997

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Former state representative Pike Powers has played a crucial role in transforming Central Texas into a technology powerhouse; and

WHEREAS, A longtime leader in economic development, Mr. Powers served in the legislature from 1972 to 1979; he joined the administration of Governor Mark White in 1983 and began working to diversify the industrial base by attracting MCC and Sematech to Austin; subsequently, he continued his efforts as partner-in-charge of Fulbright & Jaworski's Austin office, and he is credited with bringing to the state such tech giants as 3M, Applied Materials, and AMD, as well as major Samsung expansions; their advent helped spur on such homegrown companies as Dell and National Instruments; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Powers has galvanized the technology sector as a member of numerous influential organizations, including the Governor's Council on Science and Biotechnology Development, established by Rick Perry; a central player in initiatives designed to amplify collaboration among government, academia, and the private sector, he worked with the state to launch the nearly $300 million Texas Enterprise Fund, and he was vice chair of the $200 million Texas Emerging Technology Fund; in 2002, he was instrumental in the creation of the Texas Technology Initiative, and he continues to serve as its chair; he has also co-chaired Emergent Technologies-Fund IV for 15 years, and he is CEO of the Pike Powers Group and chair of the Texas Foundation for Innovative Communities; in addition, he has served on a host of corporate boards and advisory boards; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, Mr. Powers has been a catalyst for the creation of a business, civic, and philanthropic network in the state's capital, and he has given generously of his time and expertise in behalf of Opportunity Austin and the Greater San Marcos Partnership; his accomplishments have earned him myriad accolades, including the titles of Texas Legend from the American Electronics Association, Texan of the Year from the Texas Legislative Conference, and Austinite of the Year from the Austin Chamber of Commerce; a graduate of Lamar University, he earned his J.D. from The University of Texas School of Law; and

WHEREAS, Through his vision, acumen, and profound commitment to the high tech information and entrepreneurial economy, Pike Powers has made a tremendous impact in the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby honor Pike Powers for his vital contributions to the development of the Austin regional technology economy and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

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