

By: VanDeaver

H.C.R. No. 24

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The Northeast Texas Trail is a 130-mile-long  
2 converted rail corridor, stretching from Farmersville through 19  
3 rural towns and 7 counties to New Boston; and

4           WHEREAS, Since 2012, the Northeast Texas Trail Coalition has  
5 advocated for turning this previously unused land into a  
6 comprehensive system of parks, paths, and protected natural areas;  
7 under the group's vision, the NETT will be the longest pedestrian,  
8 bicycle, and equestrian trail in Texas, and it will link population  
9 centers, public facilities, and neighborhoods across the region;  
10 and

11           WHEREAS, The construction of the NETT is expected to help  
12 revitalize the communities along the trail's route, many of which  
13 are severely disadvantaged; according to a 2014 economic impact  
14 assessment, the project is a low-cost investment that will create  
15 jobs, increase tourism, conserve valuable land, and bolster  
16 property values; furthermore, studies show that when citizens have  
17 access to safe and well-maintained outdoor spaces that can be used  
18 for recreation, relaxation, and exercise, their overall quality of  
19 life is improved; and

20           WHEREAS, The development of the Northeast Texas Trail is  
21 likely to have a positive impact on the health, welfare, and  
22 economic prosperity of the region's rural communities, and the  
23 possibility of making it a part of the Texas Parks and Wildlife  
24 system should be explored; now, therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas  
2 hereby request the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the House  
3 of Representatives to direct the appropriate house and senate  
4 committees to conduct an interim study regarding the feasibility of  
5 integrating the Northeast Texas Trail into the state park system;  
6 and, be it further

7           RESOLVED, That the studies identify next steps in planning  
8 and changes required in state statutes, agency administrative  
9 rules, and local ordinances, and that the committees consider in  
10 their studies management and governance issues and coordination, as  
11 well as the initial and ongoing resources needed to fully  
12 incorporate the NETT into the state park system; and, be it further

13           RESOLVED, That the committees submit full reports, including  
14 findings and recommendations, to the 87th Legislature no later than  
15 December 31, 2020.