

By: Smith, Springer, Moody, et al.

H.C.R. No. 73

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

8 WHEREAS, On September 21, 1858, the Butterfield Overland Mail  
9 stagecoach made its first stop at the Diamond Station, just west of  
10 Whitesboro; the well-documented mail route also included stops in  
11 Sherman and El Paso; reflecting the sense of pride that Texans share  
12 about the historic Butterfield Overland Trail, the City of  
13 Whitesboro unveiled special signage in 2008 to commemorate the  
14 150th anniversary of the Butterfield Overland Mail; and

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

22 WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of the Interior has determined  
23 that the Butterfield Overland Trail is eligible for designation as  
24 a National Historic Trail because it meets all of the requirements

1 of the National Trails System Act and other requirements for  
2 designation as a National Historic Trail, namely, that the trail be  
3 nationally significant, have a well-documented route, and offer  
4 significant potential for public recreational use; and

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

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

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