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By:  Kuempel H.R. No. 246

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The manufacturing industry in Texas is a leader in the production of countless items used by people around the world, and a steady, reliable supply of raw materials is vital to industry operations; and

WHEREAS, Texas companies manufacture a wide range of products, including steel, aluminum, plastics, textiles, tires, glass, paper, paper products, and electronics; such businesses count on the availability of materials that are collected, processed, and manufactured by the state's recycling industry, whose members benefit from the expertise of the Recycling Council of Texas and the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries; and

WHEREAS, The steel industry relies on ferrous scrap as its largest single raw material input, and 70 percent of all steel and stainless steel in the country is made from scrap supplied by recyclers; as international supply chains have been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, recycling companies have played an especially critical role, collecting, sorting, and reclaiming materials used for everything from disposable hospital gowns to toilet paper to electronics to packaging for food, hospital equipment, and pharmaceuticals; in addition, salvaged auto parts help vehicle owners economize on repairs and maintain reliable transportation; while producing valuable materials, recycling companies divert a host of items from landfills; and

WHEREAS, During the COVID-19 pandemic, the recycling industry has adopted measures to protect the health of employees and customers alike; recycling industry workers have helped to sustain the manufacturing sector through a time of upheaval, and these efforts have been supported by the ongoing endeavors of industry associations; and

WHEREAS, Texas' recycling industry has collected, repaired, and redeployed tens of thousands of mobile technology devices, becoming an alternate supplier to education and corporate entities, facilitating students' remote learning, and supporting our great citizens working from home when international supply chains were disrupted during the pandemic, causing shortages of these devices; and

WHEREAS, Texas' recycling industry has collected, sorted, processed, and delivered fiber to paper, containerboard, and paperboard mills to be used in manufacturing essential products, including tissue products, pulp used in diapers and other personal hygiene products, papers for communication and education, building/construction products, and packaging for food, beverages, food service, cleaning supplies, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, and other essential consumer products; and

WHEREAS, The vitality of the state's manufacturing sector is a matter of tremendous importance, and the contributions of the recycling industry will remain crucial throughout the pandemic and in the years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby commend the Recycling Council of Texas, the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, and their members and extend to them sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

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