RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Truck drivers played a vital role in maintaining supply chains during Winter Storm Uri, which battered the Southwest for days in February 2021; and

WHEREAS, In advance of the historic storm, Texans emptied store shelves of essential items, from food to medicine; more than 80 percent of Texas communities depend exclusively on trucks for the movement of goods, and although the industry was already in a capacity crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic, companies increased load-to-truck ratios in order to meet urgent demand; and

WHEREAS, Grocers typically maintain lean inventories in expectation of just-in-time deliveries, so supplies became increasingly scarce as weather conditions deteriorated; although companies in the Texas supply chain are experienced in preparations for tropical storms and hurricanes in the summer and fall, the sudden onset of an ice storm in February left them with little time to implement preventive strategies; and

WHEREAS, Winter Storm Uri proved remarkable in its geographic reach as well as its duration, disrupting traffic from the Northwest to the Southeast; movement at the U.S.-Mexico border nearly halted as the storm system interrupted power supply in northern Mexico, and truckers attempting to bring goods into Texas from other directions dealt with a wide range of hazards, from poor road conditions to fuel scarcity as gas lines at truck stops froze; and

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WHEREAS, Despite severe challenges, truckers persevered in order to meet the rising need for food, medicine, and other assistance; such industry groups as American Trucking Associations, the Texas Trucking Association, and the Southwest Movers Association coordinated with state and local officials to aid relief efforts, from transporting generators to providing potable water for residents, hospitals, and other essential organizations; and

WHEREAS, Going above and beyond to maintain supply chains jeopardized by Winter Storm Uri, truck drivers helped Texans surmount extreme hardships, and in so doing, they earned our profound gratitude and appreciation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby commend truckers for their outstanding contributions during Winter Storm Uri and extend to all those involved in the trucking industry sincere best wishes for the future.