

By: Martinez

H.R. No. 418

R E S O L U T I O N

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

4 WHEREAS, In advance of the historic storm, Texans emptied
5 store shelves of essential items, from food to medicine; more than
6 80 percent of Texas communities depend exclusively on trucks for
7 the movement of goods, and although the industry was already in a
8 capacity crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic, companies increased
9 load-to-truck ratios in order to meet urgent demand; and

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

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

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

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

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