

By: Harris of Anderson

H.C.R. No. 89

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Bitcoin was created by the person or persons who
2 represent the pseudonymous author Satoshi Nakamoto, who wrote the
3 whitepaper describing the Bitcoin network and peer-to-peer
4 transfers of a new kind of digital currency; Nakamoto and software
5 engineer Hal Finney participated in the first Bitcoin transaction
6 on January 3, 2009; and

7 WHEREAS, Bitcoin introduced a number of technological
8 breakthroughs, including the holding of cryptographic keys that
9 represent a person's ownership of Bitcoin and the "blockchain," or
10 "distributed ledger," technology that provides an ongoing, public
11 record of the history of transactions on the network; and

12 WHEREAS, The Bitcoin network is secure, and peer-to-peer
13 transactions are confirmed by Bitcoin miners who use specialized
14 computers and complex algorithms to solve math problems; the first
15 miner to solve the problem wins the block and receives newly minted
16 Bitcoins as a block reward; and

17 WHEREAS, Over the years, Bitcoin has become a widely used
18 cryptocurrency, and Bitcoin miners in Texas make up approximately
19 25 percent of all Bitcoin mining activity in the United States;
20 owners of Bitcoin are able to custody the cryptocurrency in digital
21 wallets that prevent unlawful seizure of individual property, and
22 they can participate in censorship-resistant transactions on the
23 Bitcoin network; and

24 WHEREAS, The Chinese government banned both the trading and

1 mining of cryptocurrency in 2021, and this decision represents an
2 authoritarian form of rule that is in complete opposition to the
3 values of the United States; many Bitcoin miners left China to
4 continue their work in other countries; known as the "great mining
5 migration," this event benefited Texas, both as a state and as one
6 of the largest economies in the world; however, other states and
7 countries, such as New York and parts of Europe, have considered
8 banning or temporarily suspending Bitcoin mining activities; and

9 WHEREAS, The Lone Star State has certain principles regarding
10 items of value that are embedded in the Texas Constitution, and
11 these principles should be applied to all citizens with respect to
12 the use and storage of Bitcoin; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the 88th Legislature of the State of Texas
14 hereby express support for protecting individuals who code or
15 develop on the Bitcoin network in accordance with Section 8,
16 Article I, Texas Constitution, which states that "Every person
17 shall be at liberty to speak, write or publish his opinions on any
18 subject"; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That individuals who mine Bitcoin in Texas will
20 never be inhibited by any law or resolution that restricts the
21 practice of securing the Bitcoin network for the safety of the
22 virtual currency, which is held and transferred peer-to-peer; and,
23 be it further

24 RESOLVED, That all Bitcoin miners are welcome to seek out any
25 forms of energy to help secure the Bitcoin network in the state of
26 Texas; and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the individuals who own Bitcoin should be

1 protected under Section 9, Article I, Texas Constitution, which
2 states that "The people shall be secure in their persons, houses,
3 papers and possessions, from all unreasonable seizures or
4 searches"; this right should also extend to digital possessions,
5 such as cryptocurrencies; and, be it further

6 RESOLVED, That no citizen of Texas shall ever be deprived of
7 their right to own Bitcoin and that all Bitcoin owners will be
8 protected as they enjoy all the privileges associated with the
9 cryptocurrency, including the immunity afforded by
10 censorship-resistant spending of Bitcoin and the ability to store
11 Bitcoin in an unhosted wallet without undue interference from any
12 state agency; these protections shall be extended to Bitcoin owners
13 in accordance with Section 19, Article I, Texas Constitution, which
14 states that "No citizen of this State shall be deprived of life,
15 liberty, property, privileges or immunities, or in any manner
16 disfranchised, except by the due course of the law of the land";
17 and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That those in the United States and the broader
19 global network who work on Bitcoin coding, programming, and mining,
20 shall know by this resolution that the Bitcoin economy is welcome in
21 Texas, and that the Texas Legislature shall always seek to protect
22 the rights of its citizens under the law and foster the growth and
23 development of local businesses; in addition, all those in the
24 broader community who choose to own Bitcoin as a manner of storing
25 their wealth and transacting peer-to-peer with other law-abiding
26 Texas citizens shall always feel free and safe in their ownership
27 and use of Bitcoin in the state of Texas.