

By: Guillen

H.C.R. No. 13

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The New World screwworm, a parasitic fly that
2 infests livestock and other warm-blooded animals, poses a serious
3 threat to our livestock industry, food supply chain, and economy;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, A species endemic to Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican
6 Republic, and parts of South America, *Cochliomyia hominivorax*
7 resembles a common housefly in its mature form; infestations occur
8 when the female fly deposits eggs on an animal's open wound or other
9 vulnerable area; the emerging larvae burrow and feed on the
10 surrounding tissue, causing serious injury and often death to the
11 host; left untreated, a screwworm infection can kill an animal
12 within two weeks and continue to spread to additional hosts; and

13 WHEREAS, The United States battled screwworm infestations
14 from at least the 1800s until the 1960s, when the pest was
15 officially eradicated through the widespread release of sterilized
16 flies into wild populations; however, the species has seen a
17 resurgence in recent years, and its presence around 700 miles from
18 the Texas border prompted the federal government to halt cattle
19 imports from Mexico in May 2025; as of July 2025, it was only 370
20 miles from the Texas border; and

21 WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that
22 Texas could suffer \$1.8 billion in economic damage from a screwworm
23 outbreak through livestock deaths, labor costs, and medication
24 expenses; the consequences of such an event could ripple

1 nationwide, straining the U.S. cattle supply and endangering the
2 health of livestock as well as pets, wildlife, and even people; and

3 WHEREAS, With experts sounding the alarm over the imminent
4 arrival of the New World screwworm, federal intervention is
5 urgently needed to protect Texas ranchers and minimize economic
6 losses from this destructive parasite; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas,
8 2nd Called Session, hereby respectfully urge the federal government
9 to take immediate action to curb the spread of the New World
10 screwworm into Texas, including using existing resources to work
11 with Mexico to further develop a plan to combat screwworms; and, be
12 it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Texas Legislature hereby respectfully
14 urge the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to
15 expedite the construction of the planned screwworm control facility
16 at Moore Air Force Base in Texas; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Texas Legislature hereby respectfully
18 urge the USDA to partner with Texas A&M AgriLife to create space in
19 the new screwworm control facility for research purposes; and, be
20 it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Texas Legislature hereby respectfully
22 urge the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to expeditiously approve
23 medications for treating screwworm infection; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the Texas Legislature hereby respectfully
25 urge the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to expeditiously
26 approve pesticides for preventing and treating screwworm
27 infection; and, be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
2 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
3 the secretary of the USDA, to the commissioner of the FDA, to the
4 administrator of the EPA, to the president of the Senate and the
5 speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States
6 Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress
7 with the request that this resolution be entered in the
8 Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United
9 States of America.