

By: Bucy

H.R. No. 1422

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, For more than four decades, Bat Conservation
2 International has played a critical role in protecting bat species
3 in Texas and across the globe; and

4 WHEREAS, Since its founding in 1982, Bat Conservation
5 International has been at the forefront of research and habitat
6 restoration initiatives that are crucial to the survivability of
7 bat populations; the organization is headquartered in Austin, the
8 home of the largest urban bat colony in the world; every year, with
9 optimal viewing occurring in the summer, over 140,000 people visit
10 the Ann W. Richards Congress Avenue Bridge to witness the
11 breathtaking scene of adult Mexican free-tailed bats and their pups
12 leaving their roosts at dusk to hunt for insects; and

13 WHEREAS, Of the more than 1,400 species of bats found
14 worldwide, it is estimated that 47 live in the U.S. and 33 exist in
15 the Lone Star State; central to BCI's mission are campaigns that
16 educate the public about the importance of bats, which help
17 maintain healthy ecosystems through pollination, seed dispersal,
18 and the consumption of bugs; bat conservation is essential for
19 sustainable ecological balance in Texas, where it is estimated that
20 the animals' pest control services save agriculture producers
21 hundreds of millions of dollars annually; and

22 WHEREAS, Of special note, BCI is dedicated to protecting bat
23 habitats in Texas; in partnering with the Nature Conservancy and
24 other stakeholders, it has helped secure over 1,400 acres for

1 Bracken Cave Preserve, the home of the world's largest bat colony,
2 which encompasses some 20 million Mexican free-tailed bats near San
3 Antonio; moreover, BCI has worked with Texas private landowners and
4 with state and federal agencies to implement such practices as
5 artificial roost design and the protection of maternity roosts and
6 hibernation sites; further, BCI has teamed with the Texas Parks and
7 Wildlife Department to combat white-nose syndrome, a fungal disease
8 threatening bat populations; and

9 WHEREAS, The continuing well-being of the Lone Star State
10 depends greatly on the care demonstrated by those who oversee its
11 natural resources, and through its exemplary efforts, BCI is
12 inspiring Texans of all ages to appreciate and support the
13 stewardship of bat populations; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
15 Legislature hereby commend Bat Conservation International for its
16 vital contributions and extend to all those associated with the
17 organization sincere best wishes for continued success with their
18 important work; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
20 prepared for BCI as an expression of high regard by the Texas House
21 of Representatives.