

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 126

WHEREAS, Port Freeport is celebrating the 100th anniversary of its founding in 2025; and

WHEREAS, The port traces its history to the early 1820s, when Stephen F. Austin first recognized the potential of the Brazos River as a deep-water port and selected the area for his own colony; the region became a hub for economic activity, and following a recommendation from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Brazoria County Commissioners Court held an election to establish the Brazos River Harbor Navigation District, divert the Brazos River, and construct a bridge over the Diversion Channel; the district was officially established in December 1925, and the Diversion Channel was completed four years later; the first public dock facilities were constructed in 1936; and

WHEREAS, Following the passage of Texas House Bill 542 in 2007, the Brazos River Harbor Navigation District was renamed Port Freeport; since its inception, the port has grown to become a strategic gateway for international trade, and it currently ranks among the top ports in the United States for foreign waterborne export tonnage and chemicals; in addition, the port is one of the largest petrochemical and energy ports in the nation, and it encompasses facilities for top leaders in the chemical, aviation, agriculture, and automobile industries; and

WHEREAS, Port Freeport has significantly contributed to the state and national economy, generating an annual economic impact of \$157.3 billion and sustaining more than 266,000 jobs nationwide; the port has driven economic growth through infrastructure investments such as the Freeport Harbor Channel Improvement Project, which is scheduled to be completed in 2025;

the \$295 million project includes the widening and deepening of the Freeport Harbor Channel to depths ranging from 51 to 56 feet, which would make it the deepest port in Texas; moreover, in September 2024, the Port Freeport Commission voted to adopt a zero-tax rate, enabling the port to operate as a self-reliant entity with no tax assessment; and

WHEREAS, Over the past century, Port Freeport has played an important role in the economic vitality of the State of Texas and demonstrated a steadfast commitment to sustainability, innovation, and operational excellence, and it is indeed fitting to join the people of Brazoria County in celebrating this important milestone in the port's rich history; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 89th Legislature, hereby commemorate the 100th anniversary of Port Freeport and extend to all those affiliated with the port sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for Port Freeport as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Huffman

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the
above Resolution was adopted by
the Senate on February 25, 2025.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate