

By: Huffman

S.R. No. 126

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

14 WHEREAS, Following the passage of Texas House Bill 542 in
15 2007, the Brazos River Harbor Navigation District was renamed Port
16 Freeport; since its inception, the port has grown to become a
17 strategic gateway for international trade, and it currently ranks
18 among the top ports in the United States for foreign waterborne
19 export tonnage and chemicals; in addition, the port is one of the
20 largest petrochemical and energy ports in the nation, and it
21 encompasses facilities for top leaders in the chemical, aviation,
22 agriculture, and automobile industries; and

23 WHEREAS, Port Freeport has significantly contributed to the
24 state and national economy, generating an annual economic impact of

1 \$157.3 billion and sustaining more than 266,000 jobs nationwide;
2 the port has driven economic growth through infrastructure
3 investments such as the Freeport Harbor Channel Improvement
4 Project, which is scheduled to be completed in 2025; the \$295
5 million project includes the widening and deepening of the Freeport
6 Harbor Channel to depths ranging from 51 to 56 feet, which would
7 make it the deepest port in Texas; moreover, in September 2024, the
8 Port Freeport Commission voted to adopt a zero-tax rate, enabling
9 the port to operate as a self-reliant entity with no tax assessment;
10 and

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

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

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for Port Freeport as an expression of high regard by the
23 Texas Senate.