

1-1 By: Deshotel, et al. H.C.R. No. 106
 1-2 (Senate Sponsor - Taylor of Galveston)
 1-3 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 8, 2017;
 1-4 May 18, 2017, read first time and referred to Committee on
 1-5 Administration; May 23, 2017, reported favorably by the following
 1-6 vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; May 23, 2017, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			

1-16 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-17 WHEREAS, Texas has been the nation's top exporting state for
 1-18 the last 14 consecutive years, with an estimated \$650 billion in
 1-19 trade in 2015 alone; exports support some 1.6 million jobs and
 1-20 contribute over \$200 billion to the gross state product; and

1-21 WHEREAS, The Gulf Coast region of Texas plays a crucial role
 1-22 in the prosperity of the state, as it is home not only to the largest
 1-23 concentration of petrochemical manufacturing and refining
 1-24 facilities in the United States but also to the federal Strategic
 1-25 Petroleum Reserve and a vital supply of aviation jet fuel for
 1-26 military and commercial use; in addition, Texas ports along the
 1-27 Gulf Coast are integral to the chemical manufacturing industry and
 1-28 to both the state and national economies; and

1-29 WHEREAS, This Gulf Coast region, however, is vulnerable to
 1-30 major weather events, including intense hurricanes, which in the
 1-31 recent past have devastated area cities by causing significant loss
 1-32 of life, destroying residential and commercial property, damaging
 1-33 sensitive ecosystems, and weakening local economies; and

1-34 WHEREAS, In response to the havoc wreaked by Hurricanes Ike
 1-35 and Rita, researchers at the Center for Texas Beaches and Shores at
 1-36 Texas A&M University at Galveston designed the Coastal Spine; plans
 1-37 for implementing the structure have included consideration of
 1-38 scientific research, historical storm data, and existing systems;
 1-39 moreover, the environmental impact such an apparatus would have on
 1-40 the surrounding area and waterway is being vigorously evaluated,
 1-41 and the study is expected to be completed in the summer of 2017; and

1-42 WHEREAS, The Gulf Coast Community Protection and Recovery
 1-43 District, composed of Orange, Jefferson, Chambers, Harris,
 1-44 Galveston, and Brazoria Counties, was created by Governor Rick
 1-45 Perry in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike; its board, which
 1-46 represents more than 6.5 million residents who live in the upper
 1-47 Gulf Coast area, has determined that the Coastal Spine is the best
 1-48 method for protecting against storm surges along the Texas coast;
 1-49 the concept has also gained widespread support from residents,
 1-50 businesses, and elected officials throughout the coastal region;
 1-51 and

1-52 WHEREAS, The General Land Office of the State of Texas is
 1-53 committed to partnering with the United States Army Corps of
 1-54 Engineers to implement the construction of the Coastal Spine; and

1-55 WHEREAS, The Texas Legislature is committed to the creation
 1-56 of a special purpose district within the Gulf Coast Region in order
 1-57 to fund the ongoing operations and maintenance of any structures
 1-58 and facilities related to the Coastal Spine; and

1-59 WHEREAS, The potential benefits of the Coastal Spine are
 1-60 manifold, ranging from preserving life and property to spurring
 1-61 economic growth and cutting state expenses for disaster assistance,

2-1 and it is necessary for the U.S. government to provide aid and
2-2 support for further research, design, and construction of the
2-3 coastal barrier; now, therefore, be it

2-4 RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas
2-5 hereby express its support for the development and construction of
2-6 a coastal barrier to protect the Gulf Coast region of Texas from
2-7 storm surges; and, be it further

2-8 RESOLVED, That the Texas Legislature hereby urge the United
2-9 States Congress to provide sufficient federal funding for the
2-10 construction of the project; and, be it further

2-11 RESOLVED, That the Texas Legislature hereby urge the U.S.
2-12 Congress to expedite the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers design and
2-13 construction process; and, be it further

2-14 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
2-15 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
2-16 the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of
2-17 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the
2-18 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that
2-19 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a
2-20 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

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