

1-1 By: Taylor of Galveston S.C.R. No. 32
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 8, 2017; March 16, 2017, read
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Natural Resources &
 1-4 Economic Development; March 22, 2017, reported favorably by the
 1-5 following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; March 22, 2017, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7	X			
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10			X	
1-11	X			
1-12			X	
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			
1-18			X	

1-19 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-20 WHEREAS, Texas has been the nation's top exporting state for
 1-21 the last 14 consecutive years, with an estimated \$650 billion in
 1-22 trade in 2015 alone; exports support some 1.6 million jobs and
 1-23 contribute over \$200 billion to the gross state product; and

1-24 WHEREAS, The Gulf Coast region of Texas plays a crucial role
 1-25 in the prosperity of the state, as it is home not only to the largest
 1-26 concentration of petrochemical manufacturing and refining
 1-27 facilities in the United States but also to the federal Strategic
 1-28 Petroleum Reserve and a vital supply of aviation jet fuel for
 1-29 military and commercial use; in addition, Texas ports along the
 1-30 Gulf Coast are integral to the chemical manufacturing industry and
 1-31 to both the state and national economies; and

1-32 WHEREAS, This Gulf Coast region, however, is vulnerable to
 1-33 major weather events, including intense hurricanes, which in the
 1-34 recent past have devastated area cities by causing significant loss
 1-35 of life, destroying residential and commercial property, damaging
 1-36 sensitive ecosystems, and weakening local economies; and

1-37 WHEREAS, In response to the havoc wreaked by Hurricanes Ike
 1-38 and Rita, researchers at the Center for Texas Beaches and Shores at
 1-39 Texas A&M University at Galveston designed the Coastal Spine; plans
 1-40 for implementing the structure have included consideration of
 1-41 scientific research, historical storm data, and existing systems;
 1-42 moreover, the environmental impact such an apparatus would have on
 1-43 the surrounding area and waterway is being vigorously evaluated,
 1-44 and the study is expected to be completed in the summer of 2017; and

1-45 WHEREAS, The Gulf Coast Community Protection and Recovery
 1-46 District, composed of Orange, Jefferson, Chambers, Harris,
 1-47 Galveston, and Brazoria Counties, was created by Governor Rick
 1-48 Perry in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike; its board, which
 1-49 represents more than 6.5 million residents who live in the upper
 1-50 Gulf Coast area, has determined that the Coastal Spine is the best
 1-51 method for protecting against storm surges along the Texas coast;
 1-52 the concept has also gained widespread support from residents,
 1-53 businesses, and elected officials throughout the coastal region;
 1-54 and

1-55 WHEREAS, The potential benefits of the Coastal Spine are
 1-56 manifold, ranging from preserving life and property to spurring
 1-57 economic growth and cutting state expenses for disaster assistance,
 1-58 and it is necessary for the United States government to provide aid
 1-59 and support for further research, design, and construction of the
 1-60 coastal barrier; now, therefore, be it

1-61 RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas

2-1 hereby express its support for the development and construction of
2-2 a coastal barrier to protect the Gulf Coast region of Texas from
2-3 storm surges; and, be it further

2-4 RESOLVED, That the Texas Legislature hereby urge the United
2-5 States Congress to provide sufficient federal funding for the
2-6 construction of the project; and, be it further

2-7 RESOLVED, That the Texas Legislature hereby urge the United
2-8 States Congress to expedite the United States Army Corps of
2-9 Engineers design and construction process; and, be it further

2-10 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
2-11 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
2-12 the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of
2-13 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the
2-14 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that
2-15 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a
2-16 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

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