

hance the ability of low-income Americans to gain financial security by building assets.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 7. An act to provide incentives for charitable contributions by individuals and businesses, to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of government program delivery to individuals and families in need, and to enhance the ability of low-income Americans to gain financial security by building assets; to the Committee on Finance.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following joint resolution was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.J. Res. 36. Joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-2902. A communication from the Assistant Director for Budget and Administration, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the designation of acting officer for the position of Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, received on July 9, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2903. A communication from the Assistant Director for Budget and Administration, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Director of the Office of Science Technology Policy, received on July 9, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2904. A communication from the Assistant Director for Budget and Administration, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Associate Director for Technology, Office of Science and Technology Policy, received on July 9, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2905. A communication from the Assistant Director for Budget and Administration, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Associate Director for Environment, Office of Science and Technology Policy, received on July 9, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2906. A communication from the Assistant Director for Budget and Administration, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Associate Director for Science, Office of Science and Technology Policy, received on July 9, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2907. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Ad-

ministration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Airbus Model A300 B2, A300 B4, A300 B4-600, and A300 B4-600, B4-600R and F4-600R" ((RIN2120-AA64)(2001-0299)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2908. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Airbus Model A300 B-4-601, B4-603, B4-620, BR-605R, and F4-605R" ((RIN2120-AA64)(2001-0296)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2909. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Boeing Model 747 Series Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(2001-0297)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2910. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Raytheon Aircraft Company Beech Models 45 (YT-34), A45 (T-34A, B-45), and D45 (T-34B) Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(2001-0298)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2911. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Bombardier Model CL 600 2B19 Series Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(2001-0299)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2912. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Airbus Model A310 and Model A300 B4-600, A300 BR-600R, and A300 F4-600R Series Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(2001-0293)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2913. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Boeing Model 757 Series Airplanes Equipped with Rolls Royce Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64)(2001-0294)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2914. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Gulfstream Model G-1159, G-1159A, G-1159B, G-IV, and G-V Series Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(2001-0295)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2915. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Boeing Model 747-400 Series Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(2001-0288)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2916. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation,

transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Construcciones Aeronauticas, SA Model CN 235 Series Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(2001-0289)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2917. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Raytheon Model Hawker 800XP Series Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(2001-0290)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2918. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Boeing Model 747 Series Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(2001-0291)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2919. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Dassault Model Mystere-Falcon 900 and 900EX Series Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(2001-0284)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2920. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Bombardier Model DHC 7 Series Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(2001-0285)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2921. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Bell Helicopter Textron Canada Model 407 Helicopters; Rescission" ((RIN2120-AA64)(2001-0286)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2922. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: McDonnell Douglas Model D-90-30 Series Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(2001-0287)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2923. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision of Class E Airspace; Cody, WV" ((RIN2120-AA66)(2001-0111)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2924. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of a Class E Enroute Domestic Airspace Area, Kingman, AZ" ((RIN2120-AA66)(2001-0112)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2925. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Heber City, UT" ((RIN2120-AA66)(2001-0113)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2926. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Jet Route J 713" ((RIN2120-AA66)(2001-0114)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2927. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establish Class E Airspace; Greensburg, PA" ((RIN2120-AA66)(2001-0107)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2928. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class D Airspace and Establishment of Class E4 Airspace; Homestead, FL" ((RIN2120-AA66)(2001-0108)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2929. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; LaFayette, GA" ((RIN2120-AA66)(2001-0109)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2930. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establish Class E Airspace; Lloydsville, PA" ((RIN2120-AA66)(2001-0110)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2931. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establish Class E Airspace; Hagerstown, MD" ((RIN2120-AA66)(2001-0103)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2932. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision of Class E Airspace; Roosevelt, UT" ((RIN2120-AA66)(2001-0104)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2933. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of a Class E Enroute Domestic Airspace Area, Las Vegas, NV" ((RIN2120-AA66)(2001-0105)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2934. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to Class E Airspace; Mosby, MO" ((RIN2120-AA66)(2001-0106)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2935. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (25), AMDT. No 2057" ((RIN2120-AA65)(2001-0040)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2936. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Ad-

ministration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (44) Amdt. No. 2055" ((RIN2120-AA65)(2001-0041)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2937. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (33); Amdt. No. 2056" ((RIN2120-AA65)(2001-0039)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2938. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (565); Amdt. No. 2058" ((RIN2120-AA65)(2001-0038)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2939. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (21); Amdt. No. 2054" ((RIN2120-AA65)(2001-0037)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2940. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: GE CT58 Series and Former Military T58 Series Turbohaft Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64)(2001-0306)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2941. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: GE CF 34-1A, -3A, -3A1, -3AS, -3B and -3B1 Turbofan Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64)(2001-0307)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2942. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Boeing Model 777-200 Series Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(2001-0311)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2943. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: CORRECTION, CFM International, SA CFM56-3, -3B, and -3C Series Turbofan Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64)(2001-0312)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2944. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Rolls-Royce Limited, Aero Division-Bristol, SNECMA Olympus 593 Mk. 610-14-28 Turbo Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64)(2001-0300)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2945. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Ad-

ministration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Construcciones Aeronauticas, SA Model CN-234 Series Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(2001-0301)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2946. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Airbus Model A300 B2-1C, B2-203, B2K-3C, B4-2C, B4-103, and B4-203 Series Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(2001-0303)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2947. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Boeing Model 767 Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(2001-0305)) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2948. A communication from the Chief of the Accounting Policy Division, Common Carrier Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service" (Doc. No. 95-45) received on July 13, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2949. A communication from the Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Emergency Interim Rule to Revise Certain Provisions of the American Fisheries Act; Extension of Expiration Date" (RIN0648-A072) received on July 11, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2950. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to US military personnel and US citizens involved as contractors in antinarcotics campaign in Columbia; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-2951. A communication from the Personnel Management Specialist, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the designation of acting officer for the position of Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, EX-IV, received on July 17, 2001; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2952. A communication from the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "Atomic Energy Act Amendments of 2001"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2953. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Office of Security and Emergency Operations, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Connectivity to Atmospheric Release Capability" (DOE N 153.1) received on July 16, 2001; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2954. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Defense, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2955. A communication from the Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report concerning sales to a country designated as a

Tier III country of a computer capable of operating at a speed in excess of 2,000 million theoretical operations per second by companies that participate in the Accelerated Strategic Computing Initiative program of the Department of Energy for calendar year 2000; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2956. A communication from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "Fort Irwin Military Lands Withdrawal Act of 2001"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-124. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the State of Texas relative to muscular dystrophy; to the Committee on Appropriations.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

Whereas, Current federal funding for research on muscular dystrophy is insufficient given the disease's prevalence and severity, and this level of support does little to promote advances in research and treatment of the disease; and

Whereas, The term muscular dystrophy encompasses a large group of hereditary muscle-destroying disorders that appear in men, women, and children of every race and ethnicity, with the most common disorder, Duchenne muscular dystrophy, first appearing in early childhood or adolescence; and

Whereas, Furthermore, since genetic mutations may be a factor in any incidence of muscular dystrophy, anyone could be a carrier, and no family is immune from the possibility of the disease afflicting one of its members; and

Whereas, While the prognosis for individuals afflicted with a muscular dystrophy disorder varies according to patterns of inheritance, the age of onset, the initial muscles attached, and the progression of the disease, Duchenne muscular dystrophy is the most common fatal childhood genetic disease; and

Whereas, Because muscular dystrophy varies widely from one disorder to another, continuing research is important to understanding the disease, treating it, and working toward its prevention and cure; and

Whereas, Congressional funding for research by the National Institutes of Health on Duchenne and Becker muscular dystrophy does not reflect the severity of this disease, the importance of finding a cure, or the potential benefits that research in this area could have on other similar disorders; and

Whereas, To save lives and improve the quality of life for those already afflicted by this disease, it is imperative that the federal government take the initiative to increase funding for the research of Duchenne and Becker muscular dystrophy and, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 77th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to increase funding for research by the National Institutes of Health for the treatment and cure of Duchenne and Becker muscular dystrophy; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate of the United States congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-125. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Texas relative to NAFTA; to the Committee on Appropriations.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 10

Whereas, While the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has boosted the economy in Texas and the nation, the increase in heavy truck traffic has caused excessive wear on county and city roads that lie within the border commercial zone; and

Whereas, According to the Texas Border Infrastructure Coalition more than 77 percent of United States-Mexico trade passes through the Texas border region annually; in 1999 this amounted to 4.4 million trucks crossing the Texas-Mexico border carrying \$127.6 billion worth of commerce; and

Whereas, Many of these trucks exceed the weight limits imposed by both federal and state law, causing extensive damage to public roads and bridges, especially the "off-system" roads that are maintained by counties and municipalities, most of which are not designed to handle these heavy commercial trucks; and

Whereas, The Texas Department of Transportation estimates that there are more than 17,000 miles of load-posted roadways in Texas; many of these roadways are Farm-to-Market roads that were built in the 1940s and 1950s using design standards for a legal weight limit of 48,000 pounds, or approximately 60 percent of the weight of some of the heavier trucks today; and

Whereas, There are approximately 7,250 deficient bridges on off-system roads in Texas, and while the Texas Department of Transportation is in the process of upgrading these bridges, the scope of the bridge rehabilitation required means that, at current funding levels and practices, it could take decades to complete the undertaking, assuming no more bridges become deficient; it is important, therefore, that trucks be weighed before they are permitted to operate in the commercial border zone, so as not to cause further infrastructure damage; and

Whereas, In addition to contributing to the destruction of transportation infrastructure, overweight trucks pose safety hazards for other vehicles sharing the roads; the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute estimates that as the weight of a truck goes from 65,000 to 80,000 pounds, the risk of an accident involving a fatality increases by 50 percent; and

Whereas, County and city governments within the commercial border zone would benefit greatly from having additional weigh stations situated in their jurisdictions and additional law enforcement officers to conduct weight inspections of commercial vehicles traveling on roads that they maintain; and

Whereas, While the entire nation benefits from NAFTA, the local governments along the Texas-Mexico border must bear the high cost of overweight truck inspections and repairing damage to the roads resulting from the increase in heavy commercial vehicle traffic on the off-system roads; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 77th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby urge the United States Congress to create a federal category under the NAFTA agreement, for NAFTA traffic-related infrastructure damage, to provide counties and municipalities with funding for commercial vehicle weigh stations within the 20-mile commercial border zone; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate of the United

States Congress, and to all members of the Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-126. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Texas relative to border ports of entry and high-priority transportation corridors; to the Committee on Appropriations.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 25

Whereas, The current presidential administration has indicated that it will allow Mexican trucks at least partial access to U.S. highways beyond the commercial border zone that was established in 1993 to limit the movement of Mexican trucks until certain basic infrastructure and safety concerns had been addressed; and

Whereas, The opening of the Texas border to Mexican trucks will unfairly impact the three border transportation districts in Pharr, Laredo, and El Paso without a commensurate increase in the commitment of money by the federal government; and

Whereas, The Texas Senate Special Committee on Border Affairs was given several study charges during the 1999-2000 interim, including assessing the long-term intermodal transportation needs of the Texas-Mexico border region, evaluating the planning and capacity resources of the three Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) border districts, and overseeing the implementation of federal and state one-stop inspection stations to expedite trade and traffic; and

Whereas, The senate committee reported that Texas border crossings account for approximately 80 percent of United States-Mexico truck traffic, but the state is awarded only 15 percent of the federal funds allocated for trade corridors; information from TxDOT indicates that Texas receives considerably less than its fair share of discretionary funds allocated by the federal government; recent estimates by TxDOT indicate that, even though Texas is the second largest state in the nation, the state currently receives only 49 cents on the dollar in federal highway discretionary program funds; and

Whereas, The border ports of entry are the primary gateway for commerce for Texas and the nation but have become an economic choke point as a result of the staggering volume of traffic they must handle; in 1997, more than 2.8 million trucks crossed into and from Mexico; and

Whereas, In July 1999, the General Accounting Office (GAO) reported that NAFTA-related traffic along the border region has taxed the local and regional transportation infrastructure and that the resulting lines of traffic, which can run up to several miles during peak periods, are associated with air pollution caused by idling vehicles; and

Whereas, The GAO also cited federal and local officials' concerns about congestion affecting safety around the ports of entry and noted that congestion can have a negative impact on businesses that operate on a just-in-time schedule and rely on regular cross-border shipments of parts, supplies, and finished products; and

Whereas, The senate committee reported that in the last decade total northbound truck crossings, from Mexico into Texas, increased by 215.8 percent, while vehicle crossings increased by 59 percent and pedestrian crossings by 18.5 percent; in that same period, southbound truck crossings from Texas to Mexico increased by 278.1 percent to 2.1 billion crossings, vehicle crossings by 53.9 percent to 37.9 million crossings, and pedestrian crossings by 30.8 percent to 18.5 million crossings; and