HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The State of Texas traditionally has recognized a variety of official symbols as tangible representations of the proud character and colorful heritage of the Lone Star State; and

WHEREAS, Select members of the animal kingdom, including the longhorn, the armadillo, and the Guadalupe bass, are among the species that have been officially recognized, and their designation has served to draw attention to the great biological diversity of the Texas landscape and to highlight creatures who are unique to or closely identified with the state; and

WHEREAS, The large variety of natural habitats in Texas as well as the state’s central location on the North American continent have given it a rich array of amphibians; of the many members of that class that share our lands and waters, one species comes immediately to the forefront as an especially worthy symbol of the state: the Texas toad; and

WHEREAS, Aptly named, the Texas toad lives primarily in the Lone Star State, though it is also found in the neighboring areas of New Mexico, Oklahoma, and northern Mexico; known by the scientific name Bufo speciosus, it is one of the most abundant toad species in Texas and resides in nearly all regions of the state with the exception of the far eastern counties and parts of the western Panhandle; and

WHEREAS, Ranging in color from gray to brown with dark irregular markings, the Texas toad can grow to more than three
increments in length and is easily identified by the black tubercles on
its hind feet and by the absence of the back stripe that is seen on
many other toads; and

WHEREAS, These adaptable amphibians demonstrate the hardy
determination that Texans are known for; in order to survive in a
place where the sun is fierce and water can be scarce, they are
adept at taking refuge beneath rocks and in below-ground havens;
while most well suited to live in areas of sandy soil, they also
thrive in other locales and are found in environments that range
from desert to grasslands to wooded areas; and

WHEREAS, Relishing nothing more than a cooling shower, Texas
toads emerge in huge numbers following a summer rain and head for
the nearest pool of water in hopes of finding a mate; the toads have
a distinctive sound, with males emitting a call of explosive trills
to charm their lady friends; and

WHEREAS, Possessing a Buddha-like visage, this notable
creature is a common sight across much of Texas, and its indomitable
spirit and unique relationship with the state for which it was named
make it a most appropriate symbol of the Lone Star State; now,
therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas
hereby designate the Texas toad as the official State Amphibian of
Texas.

Bonnen
H.C.R. No. 18

David Dewhurst
President of the Senate

I certify that H.C.R. No. 18 was adopted by the House on April 22, 2009, by a non-record vote.

John Storm
Speaker of the House

Robert Haney
Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 18 was adopted by the Senate on May 21, 2009, by a viva-voce vote.

Nitsy Saul
Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: 19 JUN '09

Date

Rick Perry
Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
2 PM O'CLOCK
JUN 19 2009

Colby Hunter