

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The State of Texas has customarily recognized a  
2 variety of official state symbols as tangible representations of  
3 the state's historical and cultural heritage; and

4           WHEREAS, Like the square dance, the guitar, and the rodeo,  
5 tortilla chips and salsa are deeply rooted in Texas tradition and  
6 enjoy popularity throughout the length and breadth of the state;  
7 stocked in countless kitchens, they are brought out for solitary  
8 refreshment and for social gatherings of virtually every  
9 description and level of formality; and

10          WHEREAS, The primary ingredients of chips and salsa have  
11 nourished the people of this land for centuries; corn, peppers, and  
12 tomatoes all originated in the Western Hemisphere and were being  
13 cultivated by Native Americans along the Rio Grande when the  
14 Spaniards, who introduced onions to the New World, arrived in  
15 Texas; tortillas, developed in prehistoric times by the Indians of  
16 Latin America, have likewise long been a staple in parts of the  
17 state; and

18          WHEREAS, In addition to their traditional importance as a  
19 foodstuff, peppers, onions, and tomatoes have played a significant  
20 role in Texas folk medicine, and their value in fighting illness is  
21 being increasingly recognized by modern science; and

22          WHEREAS, Together with corn, these three plants also play a  
23 notable economic role in the state; in recent years, onions have  
24 ranked as the number one cash truck crop in Texas, while corn has

1 accounted for about five percent of the state's agricultural  
2 economy; nationwide in 2000, Texas ranked 1st in the production of  
3 jalapeño peppers, 4th in the production of onions, and 16th in the  
4 production of tomatoes, while a 2002 report ranks the state 10th in  
5 the production of corn; and

6 WHEREAS, The importance of these crops in Texas is reflected  
7 by such celebrations as the annual Corn Festival in Holland, Hot  
8 Pepper Festival in Palestine, and Tomato Festival in Jacksonville,  
9 as well as onion festivals in Noonday, Presidio, and Weslaco; salsa  
10 itself enjoys a starring role at the Three Rivers Salsa Festival and  
11 at other hotly contested competitions in Houston and Austin; and

12 WHEREAS, Spectacular sales figures underscore what Texans  
13 already know: that tortilla chips and salsa enjoy popularity  
14 ratings in the stratosphere; moreover, Texas chip and salsa plants  
15 now command a major share of their respective national markets;  
16 joining the state's oldest and largest salsa manufacturer, which  
17 began production in San Antonio in 1947, smaller new salsa firms  
18 continue to spring up, often inspired by a cherished family recipe  
19 and encouraged by Texans' insatiable demand for this zesty  
20 concoction; and

21 WHEREAS, Folk foods that have become commercial giants, chips  
22 and salsa stand out among Texas snacks because of their historic  
23 origins and universal appeal; embraced today by Texans of every  
24 ethnic background, they constitute a much-savored part of our  
25 shared cultural identity; now, therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas  
27 hereby designate tortilla chips and salsa as the official State

H.C.R. No. 16

1 Snack of Texas.

Flores

David Suskunt

President of the Senate

Jim Cordak

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 16 was adopted by the House on March 28, 2003, by a non-record vote.

Robert Harey  
Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 16 was adopted by the Senate on May 22, 2003, by a viva-voce vote.

Daisy Gaud  
Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: 20 JUN 03

Date

Rick Perry  
Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
4:30 pm O'CLOCK

JUN 22 2003  
Steph Shea  
Secretary of State