

STATE OF TEXAS

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COUNTY OF WILLIAMSON

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: THAT ON THIS, the 16th day of February , 1999, the Commissioners Court of Williamson County, Texas, met in duly called session at the Courthouse in Georgetown, Texas, with the following members present:

**John C. Doerfler, County Judge
Mike Heiligenstein, Commissioner, Pct. #1
Greg Boatright, Commissioner, Pct. #2
David Hays, Commissioner, Pct. #3
Frankie Limmer, Commissioner, Pct. #4
Nancy Rister, County Clerk**

and at said meeting, among other business, the Court considered the following

RESOLUTION

The farming, ranching-the agriculture- we have today in Texas and in the United States is unique. No nation has ever had so few people actively engaged in farming and ranching. This is a profound social change that has isolated most people from rural life and from an appreciation of the complexities and uncertainties of food production. For the most part people take agricultural production for granted. Our society has had no experience with true food scarcity. Our supermarkets always have full shelves and food is cheap. Today we spend only 10 percent of our income on food. In 1950 we spent 22 percent of our income on food and in 1935 a moderate income family in Texas spent 47% of their total living on food. In the past it took much more.

What do the various players - banking, government and agriculture - need to do to succeed in a rapidly changing environment? Agriculture is a 45 billion dollar industry in Texas. Agriculture is important not only to our state's food supply, but also to our economic well-being.

WHEREAS, the past three years of unprecedented weather disasters coupled with very low commodity prices have placed our farmers and ranchers in a situation where in they have been unable to sustain production, supply, financing or profit; and

WHEREAS, as price volatility, environmental and food safety regulation, production variability, insects, diseases, water availability (cost & quality), inability to match "price supported" foreign competition, lack of lender commitment to agriculture, weakening collateral values, cost of credit, property rights, spiraling cost of boll weevil programs, increased machinery costs have blended together to create a situation where in Texas Farmers and Ranchers are unable to sustain production, supply, financing or profit; Now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Williamson County Commissioners Court supports and urges the state of Texas to adopt laws and/or policies that would accomplish the following: