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Resolution in Support of Federal Status Equality Among Tribes in Texas

WHEREAS, the Galveston Maritime Business Association, respectfully petition the following to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United States of America, all members of Congress, and

WHEREAS, the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas is a federally recognized Indian Tribe located in Deep East Texas, and is committed to supporting the economic development and creation of jobs throughout Deep East Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas' Naskila electronic bingo facility, has created over 650 jobs in Deep East Texas and is the third largest employer in the region, and is responsible for injecting nearly \$150 million annually in revenue to the region; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas provided over 60 fully paid collegiate scholarships for graduating high school students of the Tribe in 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas being a good community partner, contributed \$500,000 in donations after Hurricane Harvey to several counties, and purchased 30 manufactured home unites; and

WHEREAS, United States Congressman Brian Babin (R-Woodville) has filed H.R. 759 to clarify conflicting federal statutes regarding the right of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas to offer Class II electronic bingo on their tribal lands pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, a right enjoyed and exercised by the Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas since 1996; and

WHEREAS, the passage of H.R. 759 is vital to continued economic development and health of both the Alabama-Coushatta of Texas and all Deep East Texas;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Galveston Maritime Business Association hereby joins the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas in support of its passage for H.R. 759 to clarify that the Tribe can enjoy opportunity for tribal economic development on terms that are equal and fair, and to protect jobs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Galveston Maritime Business Association urgently request that United States Senators John Cornyn and Ted Cruz of Texas, as well as the other 35 Texans elected to the United States House of Representatives, join Congressman Babin in securing enactment of H.R. 759 into law.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY the Galveston Maritime Business Association, this 01/31/2020
2020. Signed by _____, J.T. Edwards, President