

The following resolution was unanimously adopted by the El Paso County Commissioners Court on August, 10, 2009

Resolution of the Ecotourism Committee El Paso, Texas

August 10, 2009

WHEREAS, since 1944 Big Bend National Park in West Texas has been a region of great tourist interest for many reasons, including its breath-taking scenery, and

WHEREAS, a similar region of unparalleled beauty exists immediately across the Rio Grande in the Mexican States of Coahuila and Chihuahua, and

WHEREAS, it was proposed as early as 1935 by Senator Morris Shepherd of Texas, with support from both President Roosevelt and President Truman of the United States and President Manuel Avila Camacho of Mexico, that the Big Bend area and adjacent region in Mexico be established as an International Park and a monument to the friendship and good will that exists between the peoples of both the United States and Mexico, and

WHEREAS, the adjacent region in Mexico contains ecological systems, in particular high elevation sky island mesic forest which is important to the survival of species whose habitat will be negatively affected by climate change, that will function as refuge for such species and corridors for repopulation of adjacent lands in the Big Bend region of the United States, and

WHEREAS, there is renewed interest on the part of government officials in both countries that recognizes the need to preserve the ecology and environment of the entire area and promote tourism that will enable the peoples of both countries to more fully appreciate the natural beauty and shared cultures of this region of both Mexico and the United States.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, the Ecotourism Committee of El Paso Texas supports this endeavor by encouraging officials of both the United States and Mexican governments, as well as appropriate officials of Coahuila, Chihuahua and Texas, and the Private Sectors of both nations, to persuade the President Obama Administration and President Calderon Administration to establish an International Commission to help promote this laudable project through to completion.

