

ENROLLED HOUSE
RESOLUTION NO. 1046 BY: BENSON

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE EFFORTS OF DR. ARMANDO MORENO-TAUBE; REQUESTING THE ASSISTANCE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY OFFICE OF WATER QUALITY IN OBTAINING A FOREIGN RESIDENCE WAIVER; AND DIRECTING DISTRIBUTION.

WHEREAS, this state has engaged in an aggressive rural health care program and an area of immediate concern has arisen which adversely affects this state as well as several other states dependent on agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Health has recommended continued and aggressive research in an area focusing on adverse effects of high nitrate concentration in domestic water supplies and the relationship to congenital defects, unusually high incidence of miscarriage, methemoglobinemia, and other medical abnormalities. Specialists indicate that this problem may be extended throughout all communities in the United States which are supported by extensive agricultural cropping patterns; and

WHEREAS, the referenced nitrate problems have warranted the issuance of consent orders from the State Department of Health which requires the reduction of nitrate levels in many communities similarly situated throughout the state. Extensive research is necessary to alleviate this problem and the results of this research will undoubtedly significantly benefit the quality of life in rural America; and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Health has analyzed both public and private water systems in the affected areas for many years and alternative water supplies are essentially not available because private water wells tend to be even higher in nitrate concentrations. Susceptible individuals drinking this water are clearly at risk and this state has relied heavily on the medical community to alert pregnant women of the risk to their unborn child and during the first few months after birth; and

WHEREAS, research in this area has been directed by Armando Moreno-Taube, M.D., a foreign medical graduate from Mexico who completed his residency in the United States. Dr. Moreno-Taube is married to a U.S. citizen and has a child who is a U.S. citizen and is eligible to remain in the United States except for the fact that he is subject to a two-year foreign residence requirement; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Moreno-Taube is a highly enthusiastic and dedicated professional whose research is exceptional and unprecedented, and whose research has been endorsed by this state with support from cooperating agencies including the State Department of Health, Tillman County Department of Health, Frederick Memorial Hospital, Oklahoma State Department of Agriculture, and Oklahoma State University; and

WHEREAS, the research is consistent with the objectives of the Office of Rural Health and provides the nation with a new outlook on the problems in water sources that may be the cause of many health-related problems in rural America. The findings of Dr. Moreno-Taube's coordinated research will significantly impact agricultural practices throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma recognizes that the affected areas have been unable to solicit assistance from other qualified practitioners to direct the research and document the impact that modified agricultural practices would have on water supplies; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Armando Moreno-Taube's outstanding research efforts are unparalleled and could be part of the nation's first line of defense in alerting citizens at risk of the potential problems associated with their local drinking water; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Armando Moreno-Taube's presence in the United States is critical to the development of scientific and medical efforts to modify agricultural practices which would alleviate the adverse affects associated with nitrate levels of water supplies throughout agricultural dependent regions in the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 43RD OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT Dr. Armando Moreno-Taube is commended for his tireless efforts and his outstanding and unprecedented research in the area of water quality of domestic water supplies in this state.

THAT the State of Oklahoma deems the research efforts of Dr. Armando Moreno-Taube so significant that this state respectfully requests the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water Quality and other federal agencies to assist the nation by intervening with the United States Information Agency and obtain Dr. Armando Moreno-Taube a waiver of the J-1 two-year foreign residence requirement.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the Director of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Director of the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water Quality, the Director of the United States Information Agency, the Commissioner of the Oklahoma State Department of Health, to each member of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation and Dr. Armando Moreno-Taube.

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 26th day of May,

1992.

Speaker of the House of
Representatives