

ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 71

By: Lerblance, Adelson,
Aldridge, Anderson,
Barrington, Bass, Branan,
Brogdon, Cain, Capps,
Coates, Coffee, Corn,
Crain, Crutchfield, Easley,
Eason McIntyre, Fisher,
Ford, Garrison, Gumm,
Harrison, Hobson, Johnson
(Constance), Johnson
(Mike), Jolley, Justice,
Lamb, Laster, Laughlin,
Lawler, Leftwich, Mazzei,
Morgan, Myers, Nichols,
Paddack, Pruitt, Rabon,
Reynolds, Riley, Shurden,
Taylor, Wilcoxson,
Williamson, Wilson and
Wyrick

A Resolution thanking firefighters for their efforts during the recent drought and resulting fires; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma is suffering through a severe drought. According to the National Weather Service, the State of Oklahoma received only one-quarter inch of rain between October 2005 and January 2006. The state has experienced the second-driest six-month period since 1917; and

WHEREAS, since last fall more than 1,000 fires have burned over half a million acres in Oklahoma. There is a burn ban currently in effect in all 77 Oklahoma counties, and firefighting assistance has arrived from other states and from Native American entities to augment Oklahoma's tireless and dedicated firefighters. The Oklahoma Legislature recently passed a bill to appropriate more funds to the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry and the Rural Fire Defense Equipment Revolving Fund. Hundreds of structures have been destroyed, numerous people have been injured, and a number of deaths have been attributed to the fires; and

WHEREAS, the firefighters involved in battling these blazes, whether volunteer or professional, from Oklahoma or outside the state, regardless of what level of government or what tribe employs them, deserve the heartfelt thanks and gratitude of every Oklahoma resident.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 50TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate extends its most sincere thanks and gratitude to all the firefighters who risked their health and lives, sacrificed their time and effort, and labored in a challenging, dangerous, and harsh environment to protect the property and lives of the residents of Oklahoma during the recent drought and resulting fires.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the State Fire Marshal, the Chair of the Oklahoma Council on Firefighter Training, the Secretary of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry, and the Director of the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management for distribution to appropriate individuals and organizations.

Adopted by the Senate the 15th day of March, 2006.

Presiding Officer of the Senate