

By: Murr

H.R. No. 371

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Texas Hill Country is one of the fastest-growing
2 regions of our state and nation, and the area's continued growth
3 presents unique challenges to the stewardship of its natural
4 resources; and

5 WHEREAS, A significant economic engine for the Lone Star
6 State, the Hill Country boasts a regional GDP of nearly
7 \$300 billion and a population of more than four million people,
8 many of whom choose to live there because of the high quality of
9 life and numerous opportunities the area affords; and

10 WHEREAS, Spanning 18 counties in Central Texas, the Hill
11 Country contains the headwaters of 12 of Texas' rivers, thousands
12 of natural springs, and four of the state's nine major aquifers; a
13 total of more than 1,100 miles of river flow through the region, and
14 it is home to some of the most highly visited parks in the entire
15 state park system; and

16 WHEREAS, The Hill Country's natural areas provide habitats
17 for at least 300 species of plants, mammals, birds, reptiles, and
18 fish of the greatest conservation need, many of which depend on land
19 and water preservation efforts for their survival; and

20 WHEREAS, The historic practices of farming, ranching,
21 hunting, and fishing are likewise increasingly threatened by
22 unprecedented development, traffic, soaring land prices, soil
23 erosion, and the degradation of free-flowing streams in the region,
24 putting families at risk of losing their livelihoods; and

1 WHEREAS, Locally driven initiatives offer a responsible way
2 to manage future growth while protecting the area's lands, waters,
3 and rural communities; ensuring the long-term prosperity of the
4 region requires collaboration between its diverse stakeholders,
5 including rural and urban residents, elected officials,
6 businesses, farmers and ranchers, builders and developers, and
7 representatives of the recreation and tourism industries; and

8 WHEREAS, By working together, we can protect the Texas Hill
9 Country for generations to come, and it is fitting that we
10 acknowledge the critical importance of taking action for the sake
11 of all who appreciate this dynamic and beautiful area of our state;
12 now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
14 Legislature hereby recognize the Texas Hill Country as an integral
15 part of the State of Texas and commend those who are endeavoring to
16 preserve the region's precious natural resources and iconic
17 landscape.