

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Pedernales Electric Cooperative, the largest
2 electric cooperative in the United States, is marking the 85th
3 anniversary of its incorporation in 2023; and

4 WHEREAS, PEC traces its origins to 1935, when the Rural
5 Electrification Administration was established by the federal
6 government with the purpose of expanding electrical service to
7 rural areas; at the time, rural electrification was a prominent
8 issue in Texas, where only 2.3 percent of farms had power, and after
9 promising to make it a priority for his constituents in the 10th
10 Congressional District, then-Congressman Lyndon Baines Johnson
11 joined with local rancher E. Babe Smith and began discussions with
12 farmers, ranchers, and business leaders about electrifying the Hill
13 Country; and

14 WHEREAS, On May 8, 1938, Pedernales Electric Cooperative,
15 Inc., was formed, and on May 19, Congressman Johnson and
16 representatives from Blanco, Burnet, Gillespie, Hays, and Llano
17 Counties met in Austin to sign an official document incorporating
18 PEC; on September 27 of that year, the Rural Electrification
19 Administration granted PEC a loan of over \$1.3 million to construct
20 around 1,800 miles of line, the single largest allotment ever made
21 by the administration; and

22 WHEREAS, On October 27, 1939, the 1,800 miles of transmission
23 line energized through a substation in Bertram, bringing electrical
24 service to the cooperative's first 422 customers in Burnet County;

1 initially, some 3,300 families signed up for the service, and in
2 1947, PEC was declared to be the largest cooperative in the world;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Today, PEC's service territory spans 8,100 square
5 miles and more than 387,000 connected meters, an area nearly the
6 size of the state of New Jersey; the cooperative is owned and
7 governed by the members it serves, and it benefits from the
8 leadership of an elected board of directors as well as an executive
9 team, which is responsible for managing PEC's day-to-day operations
10 and overseeing its more than 800 employees; and

11 WHEREAS, Pedernales Electric Cooperative has played an
12 essential role in the lives of thousands of Hill Country residents
13 over the past 85 years, and this noteworthy milestone offers a
14 fitting opportunity to recognize the leaders and members of the
15 organization who have been instrumental to its success; now,
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
18 Legislature hereby honor Pedernales Electric Cooperative on the
19 85th anniversary of its incorporation and extend to all those
20 associated with its operations sincere gratitude for their work to
21 "keep the lights on" across Central Texas; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
23 prepared for PEC as an expression of high regard by the Texas House
24 of Representatives.

Zwiener

H.R. No. 2163

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 2163 was adopted by the House on May 25, 2023, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House