

By: Zwiener

H.R. No. 2163

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.