

By: Geren

H.R. No. 1121

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Since 1999, the Barnett Shale has produced more than  
2 a trillion cubic feet of natural gas and it is estimated that it  
3 holds 30 trillion more, making it the largest producing natural gas  
4 field in the State of Texas and the hottest gas play in the country;  
5 and

6           WHEREAS, A blanket marine shale deposit of thick black rock  
7 located at a depth of 7,000 to 9,000 feet, the Barnett Shale was  
8 formed from organic deposits 325 million years ago and ranges in  
9 thickness from 50 to 1,000 feet; it is present over most of north  
10 Texas, covering parts of 15 north-central Texas counties; the core  
11 area of the shale is centered in Tarrant County, with extensions  
12 into Wise, Denton, Johnson, and Parker Counties; and

13           WHEREAS, Although the limestone is unusually rich in raw  
14 materials, exploration of the shale has been limited until  
15 recently, when new technologies and drilling innovations have  
16 allowed recovery of the gas locked inside; a process called  
17 fracturing enables producers to literally crack open the shale to  
18 release the natural gas sealed within, and independent companies  
19 such as Devon, XTO, EOG Resources, Chesapeake Energy, Burlington  
20 Resources, Chief Energy, and Pitts Energy are taking advantage of  
21 these new techniques to explore the shale's vast reserves; between  
22 1992 and 2003, the number of wells has increased from fewer than 100  
23 to nearly 2,500, and in Tarrant County alone, some 326 wells were  
24 reported active in 2003, with a valuation of more than \$300 million;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, The Barnett Shale is one of the Lone Star State's  
3 most important natural resources, and its value is particularly  
4 apparent in light of the critical need for new natural gas resources  
5 to meet the future energy needs of our country; now, therefore, be  
6 it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
8 Legislature hereby recognize April 20, 2005, as Barnett Shale Day  
9 at the State Capitol in acknowledgment of the most significant  
10 gas-producing area in the nation today.