

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 635

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

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

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

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

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

Harris

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 18, 2005.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate