

By: Heflin

H.R. No. 686

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of the Big Spring area are visiting
2 Austin to celebrate Big Spring Area Day at the State Capitol on
3 March 7, 2007; and

4 WHEREAS, Scenically situated under the foothills of the
5 Caprock escarpment, the region around Big Spring was first
6 inhabited by the Skidi Pawnee and the Quahadi Comanches, who fought
7 over the use of the "big spring" in Sulphur Draw; and

8 WHEREAS, The spring became a convenient campsite for passing
9 expeditions; the first community on the site was settled in the late
10 1870s by buffalo hunters; with the arrival of the Texas and Pacific
11 Railroad, the community grew, and when Howard County was
12 established in 1882, Big Spring became the county seat; and

13 WHEREAS, By 1920 Big Spring was an important shipment
14 junction for cattle, cotton, and grain, and in 1926 oil was
15 discovered, causing the town to grow even more; during World War II
16 the Big Spring Army Air Corps Bombardier School graduated more than
17 5,000 bombardiers; today the city continues to be a thriving center
18 for ranching, farming, and oil and gas production, and new
19 businesses such as telecommunication services, wind turbines,
20 plastics, and composite manufacturing help diversify the economy;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Big Spring is home to Alon USA, a major area employer
23 using cutting-edge technology to repurpose tire rubber into asphalt
24 and to reduce the sulfur content of diesel fuel; and

1 WHEREAS, The area is also a thriving regional hub for health
2 care as the home to Big Spring State Hospital, the West Texas
3 Centers for Mental Health and Mental Retardation, the West Texas VA
4 Health Care System, and Scenic Mountain Medical Center; and

5 WHEREAS, The talented teachers and administrators of the Big
6 Spring, Coahoma, and Forsan Independent School Districts provide
7 essential primary and secondary instruction to a growing and
8 diverse population of students, and Howard College and South West
9 Collegiate Institute for the Deaf offer higher education for a
10 skilled workforce; and

11 WHEREAS, With a rich history and a bright future, the dynamic
12 Big Spring area maintains its Big Sky, Big Heart spirit,
13 recognizing the worth and dignity of every resident and continuing
14 to support the vibrant and prosperous lifestyle of its citizens
15 with exciting economic, educational, and recreational
16 opportunities; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
18 Legislature hereby recognize March 7, 2007, as Big Spring Area Day
19 at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation best
20 wishes for an enjoyable and informative stay in Austin.