

By: Swinford

H.C.R. No. 119

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The Texas Panhandle contains the state's greatest  
2 wind power potential and some of its best solar power potential, and  
3 wind power and solar energy are two of the most abundant renewable  
4 resources on earth; and

5           WHEREAS, Class 4 wind is prevalent throughout the region, and  
6 the top 4 of 25 identified wind zones also exist in the Panhandle;  
7 and

8           WHEREAS, Many wind power development companies are actively  
9 pursuing projects with landowners in the region and have filed  
10 interconnection requests with the Southwest Power Pool totaling  
11 more than 14,000 megawatts; and

12           WHEREAS, The wind industry is developing relationships with  
13 institutions of higher learning in the area, including Amarillo  
14 College, West Texas A&M University, and Texas Tech University, to  
15 support and facilitate new jobs and economic development; and

16           WHEREAS, The Panhandle is further distinguished by its  
17 numerous hours of solar intensity, which could be captured for  
18 solar generation; according to the Climate Program Office of the  
19 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the region's two  
20 largest cities, Amarillo and Lubbock, experience sunshine more than  
21 70 percent of the year; and

22           WHEREAS, With plentiful sunshine and a large expanse of  
23 high-quality winds, the Panhandle is renowned throughout the state  
24 and beyond for its renewable energy potential, and it is indeed

1 appropriate to recognize the region for its promise as a leader in  
2 green energy production; now, therefore, be it

3         RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas  
4 hereby designate the Panhandle Region of Texas as an official  
5 Natural Renewable Resource Area.