

By: King of Taylor

H.R. No. 948

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The member-owners of the Taylor Electric
2 Cooperative are celebrating the 70th anniversary of the creation of
3 the cooperative in 2009; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1939, when less than 11 percent of the nation's
5 farms and ranches had electricity, community visionaries came
6 together in Merkel to create the Taylor Electric Cooperative; aided
7 by President Roosevelt's Rural Electrification Administration, and
8 charging five dollars for a membership, the cooperative worked to
9 bring generators, power lines, and other infrastructure to rural
10 West Texas; and

11 WHEREAS, On January 30, 1941, the cooperative's plans came to
12 fruition as 300 people gathered to watch the flip of a switch that
13 brought electricity to the homes and businesses of rural West Texas
14 and changed the lives of thousands; and

15 WHEREAS, In the years since, the cooperative has grown to
16 serve 10,000 members in 11 counties, including Taylor, Jones,
17 Fisher, Nolan, Mitchell, Coke, Runnels, Coleman, Eastland,
18 Callahan, and Shackelford, covering 96,000 square miles; and

19 WHEREAS, Today, the cooperative remains committed to its
20 seven principles, which include voluntary and open membership,
21 democratic member control, member economic participation, autonomy
22 and independence, education and training for its members,
23 cooperation among cooperatives, and concern for community; and

24 WHEREAS, Remaining true to its ideal of member participation,

1 the cooperative holds annual meetings where members elect the board
2 of directors, who then meet every month; in its entire history, the
3 cooperative has held only one uncontested election; at the annual
4 meeting, members also receive capital credit refunds, which the
5 cooperative has been distributing since 1951; more than \$1.1
6 million has been refunded in the last three years alone; and

7 WHEREAS, Members of the board of directors receive training
8 and certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative
9 Association; the cooperative's linemen have worked more than one
10 million man-hours without an injury over the past eight years,
11 while traveling 182,000 miles each year in the cooperative's
12 vehicles; these skilled linemen have also assisted in the recovery
13 efforts after Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Ike, and the recent ice
14 storm in Arkansas; and

15 WHEREAS, For seven decades, the Taylor Electric Cooperative
16 has been a leader among electric cooperatives across the state and
17 nation, ensuring the prosperity and development of the areas it
18 serves, and this important anniversary is an excellent occasion to
19 celebrate the cooperative's rich history even as it works to build a
20 brighter future; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
22 Legislature hereby congratulate the Taylor Electric Cooperative on
23 its 70th anniversary and extend to the cooperative's members,
24 directors, and staff sincere best wishes for continued success;
25 and, be it further

26 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
27 prepared for the Taylor Electric Cooperative as an expression of

H.R. No. 948

1 high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.