

By: Craddick

H.R. No. 2472

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Railway Ranch, located near Odessa in Midland,  
2 Crane, and Upton Counties, has been selected as a 2009 recipient of  
3 the Lone Star Land Steward Award; and

4           WHEREAS, Presented by the Texas Parks and Wildlife  
5 Department, this accolade recognizes private landowners for  
6 excellence in habitat management and wildlife conservation; the  
7 Railway Ranch won the award as a representative of the Trans-Pecos  
8 ecoregion; and

9           WHEREAS, Co-owned by Marvin and Estee Smith and their son and  
10 daughter-in-law, Stan and Ann Smith, who also manage the property,  
11 the Railway Ranch features a great diversity of vegetation and  
12 wildlife, owing to the influence of the Trans-Pecos, High Plains,  
13 and Edwards Plateau ecological areas; and

14           WHEREAS, The Smith family has been restoring rangelands and  
15 improving wildlife habitat through brush management and water  
16 development projects for more than 30 years; during that time, they  
17 have treated 13,000 acres of creosote and tarbush and 1,600 acres of  
18 mesquite, sunk 11 water wells, built 22 cement storage tanks, and  
19 installed 25 miles of cross fencing; these efforts have helped to  
20 support a traditional livestock operation, a nature tourism  
21 enterprise, and a wildlife management program that focuses on mule  
22 deer and whitetail deer, scaled and bobwhite quail, and turkeys;  
23 and

24           WHEREAS, Longtime leaders in the sound management of natural

1 resources, the Smith family is committed to protecting the rich  
2 array of flora and fauna at the Railway Ranch, and in so doing they  
3 are helping to preserve the extraordinary natural heritage of the  
4 Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

5         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
6 Legislature hereby honor the Railway Ranch on its receipt of a 2009  
7 Lone Star Land Steward Award and extend to the Smith family sincere  
8 best wishes for continued success in all their endeavors; and, be it  
9 further

10         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
11 prepared for the Smith family as an expression of high regard by the  
12 Texas House of Representatives.