

By: Hilderbran

H.R. No. 2133

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Richard Taylor of Blue Mountain Peak Ranch in Mason
2 is receiving a 2011 Lone Star Land Steward Award from the Texas
3 Parks and Wildlife Department; and

4 WHEREAS, Now in their 16th year, the Lone Star Land Steward
5 Awards are presented annually by TPWD, the Private Lands Advisory
6 Committee, and the Sand County Foundation in recognition of
7 landowners across Texas for their exemplary stewardship of the
8 state's natural resources; and

9 WHEREAS, Blue Mountain Peak Ranch was purchased in 2001 by
10 Richard Taylor and his wife, Sally, who has since passed away; the
11 couple were cofounders of The Conservation Agency, a nonprofit
12 organization devoted to the preservation of biodiversity, and after
13 acquiring the ranch, they began to maintain its more than 830 acres
14 in accordance with the agency's principles; and

15 WHEREAS, Working with field biologists from TPWD, Mr. and
16 Mrs. Taylor used prescription burns to restore the property to the
17 condition it was in before the arrival of European settlers,
18 thinning out the dominant Ashe Juniper trees, locally known as
19 cedars, and allowing other native species to revive; over the past
20 10 years, endangered flora and fauna have returned in healthy
21 numbers, erosion has been reduced, and dozens of springs and
22 streams have rejuvenated and now run year-round; and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Taylor continues to maintain the ranch's
24 biodiversity, and he makes the property available to hunters,

1 hikers, photographers, birders, and mountain bikers; he hosts the
2 Texas Youth Hunting Program each year, and he regularly invites
3 students, other landowners, and professional naturalists to hold
4 educational events at the ranch; and

5 WHEREAS, The natural beauty and diverse ecology of the Texas
6 Hill Country depend on the careful stewardship of its landowners,
7 and through his outstanding efforts, Richard Taylor is conserving
8 precious resources for future generations; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
10 Legislature hereby congratulate Richard Taylor on his receipt of a
11 2011 Lone Star Land Steward Award from the Texas Parks and Wildlife
12 Department and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued
13 success in his important work; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
15 prepared for Mr. Taylor as an expression of high regard by the Texas
16 House of Representatives.