

By: Farrar

H.R. No. 226

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, February 2, 2013, marks 42 years since the adoption
2 of the Convention on Wetlands, and mindful citizens from Texas and
3 around the globe will take part in activities to raise awareness of
4 this vital natural resource; and

5 WHEREAS, The Convention on Wetlands of International
6 Importance, known as the Ramsar Convention, is an intergovernmental
7 treaty that provides the framework for national action and
8 international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of
9 wetlands and their resources; each year since 1997, governments,
10 nongovernmental organizations, and conservationists have
11 celebrated the anniversary to increase understanding about the
12 value of wetlands; and

13 WHEREAS, There are more than 300 miles of coastline and
14 millions of acres of wetlands in Texas; this critical terrain is
15 invaluable to wildlife and humans both, as among its functions are
16 flood control, water filtration, and nutrient cycling, as well as
17 serving as a reproductive environment for birds and fishes; in
18 addition, the shorelines, lakes, swamps, and marshes of the Lone
19 Star State stabilize carbon dioxide levels and provide
20 opportunities for recreation; and

21 WHEREAS, The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has
22 indicated that about half of Texas' historic wetlands acreage has
23 been developed for housing, industry, and other uses; with the
24 observance of World Wetlands Day, Texans affirm the significance of

1 these habitats and commit to protecting them for the benefit of all;
2 now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
4 Legislature hereby recognize February 2, 2013, as World Wetlands
5 Day and encourage residents throughout the state to learn more
6 about these important ecosystems.