

By: King of Zavala

H.R. No. 457

RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Proud citizens of Frio County are gathering in
2 Austin on February 19, 2013, to celebrate Frio County Day at the
3 State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Located along the river from which it derives its
5 name, Frio County features gently rolling plains, scattered prairie
6 brush, and loamy soil that has made for ideal farmland; the area was
7 once inhabited by Payaya and Pachal Indians, while the later
8 presence of hostile Comanche mustangers discouraged settlement
9 until after the Civil War; and

10 WHEREAS, On February 1, 1858, the Texas Legislature approved
11 the formation of a new county out of parts of nearby Atascosa,
12 Bexar, and Uvalde Counties, but it was not formally organized until
13 1871; in 1883 residents voted to have Pearsall designated as the
14 county seat; and

15 WHEREAS, In the late 1800s, agriculture became more viable
16 with the introduction of barbed wire and irrigation to the area, and
17 railroads expanded the market for Frio County's many cash crops;
18 cotton remained its primary product until the Great Depression,
19 when local producers turned to peanuts as a more lucrative
20 substitute; as the decades passed, farming and ranching were made
21 more efficient by the use of such machinery as the squeeze chute and
22 the peanut combine, the latter of which was invented by a Frio
23 County farmer; and

24 WHEREAS, With the county favorably situated in the Eagle Ford

1 shale region, oil has joined agriculture as one of the region's
2 thriving industries, and today, a period of increased commerce and
3 job growth is drawing new residents and businesses; and

4 WHEREAS, Frio County is known for its abundant wild game, and
5 the Pearsall area is regarded as a "hunter's paradise" with
6 approximately 675,000 acres of prime hunting grounds; other leisure
7 attractions in the town of Pearsall itself include numerous parks
8 and the Old Frio County Jail Museum; to the south, Dilley is Frio
9 County's second-largest town; it has long been famous for its
10 watermelons and its giant watermelon statue, but more recently, it
11 is becoming known as the gateway to the Greater Eagle Ford Shale, as
12 the county's citizens respond to the challenges and opportunities
13 brought by new drilling technology and increased interest in their
14 area from the oil and gas industry; and

15 WHEREAS, Celebrating their rich heritage as they look forward
16 to a future bright with promise, Frio County residents may take
17 special pride in the unique contributions they are making to the
18 history and prosperity of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
20 Legislature hereby recognize February 19, 2013, as Frio County Day
21 at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere
22 best wishes for a meaningful and memorable stay in Austin.