

By: King of Uvalde

H.R. No. 254

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Texas has the nation's largest rural population, and
2 rural concerns are of enormous importance to the Lone Star State;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Today, 3.2 million Texans, or 16 percent, live in
5 rural areas; of the 254 counties in Texas, 172 are rural, and rural
6 land totals 142 million acres, representing 84 percent of total
7 land area; and

8 WHEREAS, Our state leads the country in the number of farms
9 and ranches, which cover 130.2 million acres, and small rural
10 telephone cooperatives and companies provide service to over half
11 the geographic area; and

12 WHEREAS, Texas has more women and minority farm operations
13 than any other state, and almost a third of the population in rural
14 counties is 65 or older; reflecting the deep patriotism of the
15 countryside, the majority of the nation's military men and women
16 hail from rural backgrounds; and

17 WHEREAS, Such essential products as food, fuel, and fiber are
18 among those originating in rural Texas, but although rural
19 operations contribute billions to the Texas economy, rural families
20 typically earn only 48 percent of what metropolitan workers earn;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, While the rural population may be decreasing, rural
23 people continue to demonstrate resolve and determination, as well
24 as love for family, faith, and country, and the future of this state

1 and nation depends in large part on the vibrancy and prosperity of
2 our rural communities; and

3 WHEREAS, A special legislative day provides a most fitting
4 occasion to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of
5 rural citizens, businesses, and industries; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
7 Legislature hereby recognize February 3, 2015, as Rural Matters Day
8 in Texas and express its gratitude and appreciation for the myriad
9 contributions of rural Texans.