

By: Price

H.R. No. 498

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The directors and staff of the North Plains
2 Groundwater Conservation District celebrated the 60th anniversary
3 of its establishment on January 21, 2015, and this significant
4 milestone offers a fitting opportunity to recognize the
5 contributions of the district to the northern Panhandle region; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1955, voters approved the State Board of Water
7 Engineers' creation of the North Plains Groundwater Conservation
8 District for the purpose of managing groundwater resources north of
9 the Canadian River; the district was originally composed of
10 Hartley, Moore, Sherman, Hansford, Hutchinson, and Ochiltree
11 Counties, and eventually Lipscomb and Dallam Counties joined the
12 region; and

13 WHEREAS, In addition to confirming that rules and standards
14 are met, the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District
15 collects and maintains data, performs water quality analyses,
16 issues well permits, and creates educational opportunities for
17 stakeholders and area schools; for the past nine years, the
18 district has organized Save The Planet's Water Festivals, which
19 have helped more than 5,000 students and teachers learn about and
20 recognize their role in the stewardship of natural resources; and

21 WHEREAS, In 2010, the board of directors introduced the
22 200-12 Reduced Irrigation on Corn Demonstration Project to help
23 save irrigation water while maintaining crop yields; the 200-12
24 Project has been recognized by the Texas Water Conservation

1 Advisory Council with the 2011 Blue Legacy Award for Agriculture
2 and by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the Office
3 of the Governor with the 2012 Texas Environmental Excellence Award
4 for Agriculture; and

5 WHEREAS, Currently, the organization is led by general
6 manager Steve Walthour, and it further benefits from the dedicated
7 work of its staff and engineers, Jerry Green, Dale Hallmark,
8 Kristen Lane, Patsy Long, Karen Mannis, Leon New, Mike Pitts,
9 Pauletta Rhoades, Sherry Robinett, Curtis Schwertner, Paul Sigle,
10 Shari Stanford, Casey Tice, Odell Ward, Kirk Welch, and Laura West;
11 also deserving of acknowledgment are members of the district board,
12 Gene Born, Justin Crownover, Harold Grall, Mark Howard, Danny
13 Krienke, Zac Yoder, and Bob Zimmer, whose direction and oversight
14 have been invaluable to the district's operation; and

15 WHEREAS, For six decades, the North Plains Groundwater
16 Conservation District has worked to provide prudent and effective
17 administration of regional groundwater supplies, thereby ensuring
18 the availability of this precious resource for Texans today and for
19 generations to come; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
21 Legislature hereby commemorate the 60th anniversary of the North
22 Plains Groundwater Conservation District and extend to the
23 district's manager, staff, engineers, and board members sincere
24 best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

25 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
26 prepared for the district board and staff as an expression of high
27 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.