

By: Nevárez

H.R. No. 2159

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Richardson B. Gill, Christopher Gill, Reeda
2 Peel, and Javier Vasquez have undertaken an important study on the
3 natural history of elk herds in the Lone Star State; and

4 WHEREAS, A co-owner of Circle Ranch in the Sierra Diablo
5 mountains, Chris Gill is committed to restoring native wildlife and
6 habitat; he wanted to examine the question of whether elk were
7 indigenous to areas of Texas beyond the Guadalupe Mountains, and to
8 that end, he joined forces with his brother Richardson Gill, an
9 anthropologist, and archeologists Reeda Peel and Javier Vasquez;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The team evaluated a variety of evidence, including
12 geographic clues in the form of place names; through radiocarbon
13 dating, they traced elk bones, antlers, and fossilized dung to the
14 dawn of the 17th century; they delved into historical accounts,
15 finding that the earliest documented sighting of elk in Texas
16 occurred in 1601; in addition, they examined the visual record left
17 by artists, who depicted elk on cave and canyon walls some 2,000 to
18 4,000 years ago; in their report, titled "Are Elk Native to Texas?"
19 the group detailed its findings, which document the widespread
20 presence of elk in Texas centuries ago, from the Panhandle to the
21 Rio Grande; and

22 WHEREAS, Through their extensive research, these
23 investigators have established that the majestic elk, now confined
24 to mountain ranges in the Trans-Pecos, once ranged across much of

1 what would become the Lone Star State; their work makes a valuable
2 contribution to scientific knowledge and provides information that
3 is important to the future management of this valuable species;
4 now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
6 Legislature hereby commend Dr. Richardson B. Gill, Christopher
7 Gill, Reeda Peel, and Javier Vasquez for their research on the
8 natural history of elk in Texas and extend to them sincere
9 appreciation for their dedication to wildlife stewardship; and, be
10 it further

11 RESOLVED, That official copies of this resolution be prepared
12 for the researchers as an expression of high regard by the Texas
13 House of Representatives.