86R23311 JGH-D

By:  Paddie H.R. No. 1075

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, In March 2019, the Railroad Commission of Texas is celebrating the 100th anniversary of its role in the regulation of the oil and gas industry in the Lone Star State; and

WHEREAS, First established by the legislature in 1891, the Railroad Commission was originally given jurisdiction over the rates and operations of railroads, terminals, wharves, and express companies; with the rapid rise in oil and gas production, the commission was further tasked with oversight of the energy industry in March 1919; and

WHEREAS, Today, the Railroad Commission's Oil and Gas Division employs highly skilled petroleum engineers, professional engineers, and professional geologists, as well as more than 160 trained field inspectors, who conduct thousands of inspections of oil and gas operators every year, working to ensure the protection of the public, the environment, and the economy; the commission benefits from a century of regulatory experience, in such areas as the spacing of wells, the protection of groundwater, water recycling guidelines, and many others; and

WHEREAS, Looking ahead to the future, the RRC has implemented a well-plugging program that is on track to plug 3,000 old wells across the state at no cost to Texas taxpayers; in addition, the commission is modernizing its information technology systems, automating its permitting and reporting processes, and launching the Online Inspection Lookup system, which allows the public to access the inspection and violation history of oil and gas wells; and

WHEREAS, Over the past century, the Railroad Commission has been instrumental not only in facilitating the responsible management of our state's oil and gas natural resources but also in promoting energy independence in the U.S., and this milestone year provides a fitting opportunity to recognize the agency's outstanding efforts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Railroad Commission's role in regulating the oil and gas industry in Texas and extend to all those associated with the agency sincere best wishes for continued success in their important work; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for the Railroad Commission of Texas as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.