

By: Goldman

H.R. No. 641

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Railroad Commission of Texas is celebrating the  
2 130th anniversary of its founding in April 2021, and this milestone  
3 presents a fitting opportunity to recognize this venerable  
4 institution; and

5           WHEREAS, Established by the Texas Constitution in 1891, the  
6 Railroad Commission was created to oversee the rates and operations  
7 of railroads, terminals, wharves, and express companies; in 1917,  
8 the Texas Legislature declared pipelines to be common carriers  
9 under the authority of the Railroad Commission and designated the  
10 commission as the agency to administer the conservation laws  
11 relating to oil and gas; in March 1919, with the rapid rise in oil  
12 and gas production, the legislature enacted a statute requiring the  
13 conservation of oil and gas, forbidding waste, and giving the  
14 Railroad Commission jurisdiction over the industry; and

15           WHEREAS, In the decades since, the commission's roles and  
16 responsibilities have grown as the state has changed; its rail  
17 functions have been transferred to other agencies, but its  
18 jurisdiction has been extended to the oversight not only of oil and  
19 gas exploration and production, but also of pipeline safety and the  
20 safety of alternative fuels, natural gas utilities, and the surface  
21 mining of coal and uranium; the commission's staff includes highly  
22 skilled engineers, geologists, and field inspectors, as well as  
23 professionals with expertise in information technology, the law,  
24 finance, safety, communications, and administration, who are

1 tasked with ensuring the protection of the public, the environment,  
2 and the economy; and

3       WHEREAS, Today, the Railroad Commission conducts inspections  
4 of oil and gas wells, pipeline infrastructure, alternative fuels  
5 facilities, and coal surface mining sites; it also conducts field  
6 audits of natural gas utilities and of the number of abandoned well  
7 sites that have been cleaned up with the use of state-managed funds;  
8 in addition, the commission's staff is working tirelessly to  
9 modernize its IT systems, transforming outdated processes into new  
10 platforms that allow streamlined and transparent business  
11 operations; and

12       WHEREAS, For 130 years, the Railroad Commission of Texas has  
13 played a vital role in promoting the energy independence of our  
14 nation, and the agency has earned a national and international  
15 reputation for its accomplishments; now, therefore, be it

16       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas  
17 Legislature hereby commemorate the 130th anniversary of the  
18 Railroad Commission of Texas and extend to the commissioners and  
19 the commission's staff sincere best wishes for success with their  
20 important work; and, be it further

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