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By:  Goldman H.R. No. 441

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Employees, advocates, and partners of the energy industry are celebrating Texas Energy Day at the State Capitol on March 7, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Texas is the number one state in the U.S. for oil and natural gas production, refining capacity, and pipeline miles; moreover, the state has played an important part in helping our nation become the world's leader in oil and gas production, which has created an unprecedented level of American energy security; the oil and gas industry also contributes greatly to the economic well-being of the state by directly providing approximately 443,000 jobs, with many more jobs indirectly tied to the oil and gas sector, and in 2022 the industry generated nearly $25 billion in taxes and royalties that helped fund such essential infrastructure as schools, roads, and emergency services; and

WHEREAS, In 2022, Texas school districts received more than $1.5 billion in property taxes from mineral properties producing oil and natural gas, pipelines, and gas utilities, and Texas counties received $608 million; the oil and gas industry also paid $1.5 billion to the Economic Stabilization Fund last year and another $2.1 billion to the Permanent University Fund; and

WHEREAS, The state's preeminent role in energy production has been furthered through the use of fracking and other innovative processes; many Texas oil and natural gas companies are leading the way in developing new technologies designed to reduce water use, expand water reuse, and increase the use of naturally occurring salt water in their operations; and

WHEREAS, Because of advances in technology, carbon dioxide emissions in the United States are at some of the lowest levels in nearly three decades, and today, natural gas production has a smaller carbon footprint than burning coal or petroleum products; according to the Railroad Commission of Texas, the percentage of natural gas flared out of all the natural gas produced in Texas decreased by 73 percent between June 2019 and May 2021, with less than two percent of the natural gas produced in Texas flared or vented; further, even though oil and natural gas production have skyrocketed, in 2020, methane emissions from the industry were down 17 percent since 1990; and

WHEREAS, Oil and natural gas are used to make the vast majority of products and materials that we use every day, including plastics, medicines, computers, and more, and Texas is a vital contributor to the nation's global energy leadership; and

WHEREAS, The Texas oil and natural gas industry plays an essential role in securing our state and national economy and advancing global stability, and it is indeed fitting that the Texas energy industry and its partners be recognized for their contributions to the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas Legislature hereby recognize March 7, 2023, as Texas Energy Day at the State Capitol and extend to all those participating in the event sincere best wishes for the future.