

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9 modernize its IT systems, transforming outdated processes into new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.

Goldman

H.R. No. 641

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 641 was adopted by the House on April 16, 2021, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House