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

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

WHEREAS, In the decades since, the commission's roles and responsibilities have grown as the state has changed; its rail functions have been transferred to other agencies, but its jurisdiction has been extended to the oversight not only of oil and gas exploration and production, but also of pipeline safety and the safety of alternative fuels, natural gas utilities, and the surface mining of coal and uranium; the commission's staff includes highly skilled engineers, geologists, and field inspectors, as well as professionals with expertise in information technology, the law, finance, safety, communications, and administration, who are
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1 tasked with ensuring the protection of the public, the environment,
2 and the economy; and
3
4 WHEREAS, Today, the Railroad Commission conducts inspections
5 of oil and gas wells, pipeline infrastructure, alternative fuels
6 facilities, and coal surface mining sites; it also conducts field
7 audits of natural gas utilities and of the number of abandoned well
8 sites that have been cleaned up with the use of state-managed funds;
9 in addition, the commission's staff is working tirelessly to
10 modernize its IT systems, transforming outdated processes into new
11 platforms that allow streamlined and transparent business
12 operations; and
13
14 WHEREAS, For 130 years, the Railroad Commission of Texas has
15 played a vital role in promoting the energy independence of our
16 nation, and the agency has earned a national and international
17 reputation for its accomplishments; now, therefore, be it
18
19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
20 Legislature hereby commemorate the 130th anniversary of the
21 Railroad Commission of Texas and extend to the commissioners and
22 the commission's staff sincere best wishes for success with their
23 important work; and, be it further
24
25 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
26 prepared for the Railroad Commission as an expression of high
27 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.

Goldman
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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.

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Chief Clerk of the House