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By Robert Osborne

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I am delighted to announce that Governor **Greg Abbott** signed a resolution urging the federal government to work with Texas in unraveling overreaching oil and gas regulations adopted by the Obama administration. The resolution complements the Alliance's Federal Regulatory Energy Delegation (FRED) initiative designed to identify federal programs best handled by the State of Texas.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 26, authored by Senate Natural Resources Chairman **Craig Estes** (R-Wichita Falls) and sponsored by House Energy Resources Chairman **Drew Darby** (R-San Angelo), cleared both chambers by large margins of 29-2 in the Senate and 141-4 in the House.

I also want to commend the Alliance's government relation team of Executive Vice President **John Tintera**, chief lobbyist **Bill Stevens**, public affairs specialist **Katie Carmichael**, and attorney **Caleb Troxclair**. They worked hard throughout the session, but especially hard in making certain that the FRED resolution passed the House and Senate and signed by the Governor.

The Alliance now begins to work to reverse some of the harmful regulations that have stunted the growth of our industry for far too long. SCR 26 is a critical component in a larger overall effort to seek delegation over energy regulations from the federal government and return power to the hands of the state.

Specifically, SCR 26:

- recognizes the opportunity to "transcend partisan politics and correct misuses of federal regulatory power that have threatened the Texas oil and gas industry, the jobs it creates, and the economy of Texas";
- strongly urges Congress and the new administration to closely review onerous regulations in order to determine whether these rules should be revised, repealed or alternatively, delegated back to the states to implement and enforce;
- acknowledges the incredible economic security and prosperity that Texas oilfields have afforded the state and the country as a whole, as well as the safe and reliable manner in which industry operates and produces this crucial resource;
- references the more than 20 lawsuits that Texas has filed in conjunction with many other oil and gas producing states against federal overregulation that prioritizes minor environmental gains over major productive losses.