**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE MR. RON K. PATTON UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT, TO COMMEND HIM FOR HIS TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, AND TO WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to recognize Mr. Ron K. Patton upon the occasion of his retirement in June 2017; and

Whereas, a native of Greenville, Mr. Patton graduated from Clemson University in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. He is well known for his unbridled passion and support of the university and the Tigers’ athletic prowess and for a prodigious knowledge of Clemson football history; and

Whereas, Mr. Patton is a registered professional engineer who joined the South Carolina Department of Transportation as a hydraulic design engineer in April 1991. He served as a project engineer for the Upstate region, including Anderson, Greenville, Oconee, Pickens, and Spartanburg Counties, and was involved in numerous projects, such as the widening of I‑85 and I‑385, the J. Verne Smith Parkway, and many other projects of regional and statewide significance; and

Whereas, he also served as lead program manager responsible for managing projects during the “27‑in‑7 Program,” such as the widening of the I‑77 corridor serving York County and the surrounding region. With this project, he earned the nickname “Ron Bond” from members of the legislature; and

Whereas, Mr. Patton was promoted to director of planning and environmental projects, a position in which he spearheaded several updates to the Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan, in order to define the overall condition, performance, and future needs of the State’s transportation system; and

Whereas, he was instrumental in assisting during the legislative process that culminated in the passage of Act 114 in 2007, and he has played a vital role in the implementation of the agency’s project prioritization procedures since that time; and

Whereas, Mr. Patton was also promoted to chief engineer for location and design and later to deputy secretary for intermodal planning; and

Whereas, Mr. Patton is commonly known as “RP” to many of his friends and is renowned for his shagging exploits on the dance floor, his love of music, and his willingness to add his spin as a DJ in any important social event; and

Whereas, he is married to his soulmate, the former Laura Coakley, and is a proud father of his son Benjamin and his two dogs, George and Barkley. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate Mr. Ron K. Patton upon the occasion of his retirement, commend him for his twenty-eight years of distinguished public service to the South Carolina Department of Transportation and the State of South Carolina, and wish him continued success in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mr. Ron K. Patton.

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