**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CELEBRATE THE WONDERFUL OCCASION OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF DILLON COUNTY AND TO CONGRATULATE AND COMMEND ITS CITIZENS FOR A CENTURY OF SHOWCASING THE CHARMING BEAUTY OF THIS SOUTH CAROLINA JEWEL.

Whereas, Dillon County, nestled on the South Carolina‑North Carolina border in the Palmetto State’s Pee Dee region, quietly boasts charming small‑town and rural life imbued with Southern grace. From its unspoiled nature to its historical places, the county provides yet‑untapped opportunities for growth; and

Whereas, originally called “The Golden Land” for its abundance during harvest, the area was named for James W. Dillon, an Irishman who convinced Atlantic Coastline Railroad officials to route their tracks through his land. As a result, the Town of Dillon was established as the county seat, and today Mr. Dillon’s home serves as the Dillon County Museum; and

Whereas, long a relatively isolated region, the area received a boost when railroads spurred development in the late 1800s. Towns like Dillon, Latta, and Lake View sprang up around a new rail line out of Florence in 1888. The region grew cotton and tobacco, accumulating enough wealth to build opulent structures like the Dillon County Courthouse, a magnificent example of Beaux Arts architecture dating from 1911, now on the National Register of Historic Places; and

Whereas, the county’s many classic homes and restored buildings speak of a population respectful of its rich historical heritage. As the focal point of the town, Dillon’s Main Street has many reminders of times past, such as the railroad, which still dominates the streetscape as home to one of a handful of Amtrak stations in South Carolina; and

Whereas, the county takes care to preserve its natural beauty, as well. If taking advantage of Dillon County’s Little Pee Dee State Park and Little Pee Dee Bay Heritage Preserve, with their hiking trails, varied tree and plant life, campgrounds, and fishing opportunities, leaves visitors thirsty, they need but open a bottle of Blenheim’s spicy gingerale, a locally brewed favorite energy refresher; and

Whereas, on February 5, 1910, Governor Martin F. Ansel signed the bill creating Dillon County, and on February 5, 2010, the county’s present‑day citizenry will celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of that signing with a centennial gala featuring a festive dinner, music, cake, and several surprises; and

Whereas, the county has scheduled various celebratory events throughout the year to rehearse a century of community life and anticipate a bright future enhanced by the rich heritage of the past. Events include plays, historic church tours, parades, a springfest, band concert, family picnic and ice cream social, antique and collectibles show, centennial tea, Thanksgiving service, Christmas at the Dillon House, and many other attractions; and

Whereas, the forefathers of Dillon County are worthy of honor for their foresighted courage in forging ahead with positive change and development and for establishing religious and educational institutions where its people can learn, grow, and worship together, as it is even until this day; and

Whereas, Dillon County’s present citizens firmly pledge support to their leaders toward the future growth and enrichment of their beloved county. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, celebrate the wonderful occasion of the one hundredth anniversary of Dillon County and congratulate and commend its citizens for a century of showcasing the charming beauty of this South Carolina jewel.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Dillon County Council.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑