**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO WELCOME BACK TO SOUTH CAROLINA RICK C. WADE, SENIOR ADVISOR AND DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, AS HE BRINGS THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS ON THE OCCASION OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS CORPORATE ROUNDTABLE BUSINESS LUNCHEON ON APRIL 15, 2011.

Whereas, on Friday, April 15, 2011, the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus will host its Corporate Roundtable Business Luncheon in Columbia, featuring as guest speaker Rick C. Wade, senior advisor and deputy chief of staff, United States Department of Commerce; and

Whereas, in preparation for his life’s work, Rick Wade received a bachelor’s degree from the University of South Carolina and a master’s degree in public administration from Harvard University, where he was a Kennedy Fellow. He has studied at both the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia, and Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.; and

Whereas, a native of Lancaster, Rick C. Wade began his career in the South Carolina State House, where he worked as an analyst for the House Ways and Means Committee. He then worked for the University of South Carolina and later served as chief of staff to the Palmetto State’s lieutenant governor. His business experience includes service as an executive with Hoffman‑La Roche pharmaceutical company, Don Fowler Communications Inc., and Palmetto GBA, a subsidiary of Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina; and

Whereas, since joining the Department of Commerce, Mr. Wade has been a forceful advocate for the department’s priorities at many domestic and international forums, including the U.S.‑China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT), Asian‑Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), African Growth and Opportunity Act Forum (AGOA), Conference on the Caribbean and Central America (CCCA), and U.S. Department of State Policy Coordinating Committee on Brazil; and

Whereas, he also serves as the Commerce Department’s special envoy to the Caribbean, oversees private‑sector initiatives in Haiti, and leads trade missions to various parts of the world; and

Whereas, in addition, Mr. Wade works closely with external stakeholders, including other federal agencies, States, businesses, and trade associations, as well as faith, minority, and Native‑American communities; and

Whereas, strongly believing in active community involvement, Rick Wade has served as a trustee for the Sisters of Charity Foundation and as chairman of the board for the Columbia Urban League, South Carolina Center for Fathers and families, and USC Educational Opportunity Center. He has received numerous awards for exemplary public service and leadership; and

Whereas, cognizant of his fine record of service at both the state and national level, the General Assembly takes great pleasure in welcoming back to South Carolina native son Rick C. Wade, senior advisor and deputy chief of staff, United States Department of Commerce, on the occasion of the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus Corporate Roundtable Business Luncheon; and

Whereas, special greetings are extended by the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus, whose members include Representative William “Bill” Clyburn, chairman of the caucus; Representative Harold Mitchell, Jr., chairman elect; Representative J. David Weeks, immediate past chairman; Representative John R. King, secretary; Representative Chandra Dillard, treasurer; Representative Terry Alexander, chaplain; Representative Ronnie A. Sabb, parliamentarian; Senator John W. Matthews, Jr., chairman designee; Senators Ralph Anderson, Robert Ford, Darrell Jackson, Gerald Malloy, Floyd Nicholson, Clementa C. Pinckney, John L. Scott, Jr., and Kent Williams; and Representatives Karl B. Allen, Carl L. Anderson, Curtis Brantley, Robert L. Brown, Mia Butler Garrick, Gilda Cobb‑Hunter, Wendell Gilliard, Jerry N. Govan, Jr., Christopher Hart, Kenneth Hodges, Lonnie Hosey, Leon Howard, Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr., David J. Mack III, Joseph McEachern, Joseph H. Neal, J. Anne Parks, J. Todd Rutherford, Bakari Sellers, J. Seth Whipper, and Robert Williams. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, welcome back to South Carolina Rick C. Wade, senior advisor and deputy chief of staff, United States Department of Commerce, as he brings the keynote address on the occasion of the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus Corporate Roundtable Business Luncheon on April 15, 2011.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Rick C. Wade.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑