**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND TO CONGRATULATE ITS OFFICERS, STAFF, AND MEMBERS AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR NINETIETH ANNIVERSARY DURING 2016 AS “THE YEAR OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPER.”

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate is delighted to learn that the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is celebrating its ninetieth anniversary in 2016 and has designated the week of May 8‑May 14, 2016, as its first “Economic Development Week”; and

Whereas, a non‑profit membership organization, IEDC is the largest professional economic development organization dedicated to serving economic developers, serving more than four thousand seven hundred members; and

Whereas, the mission of IEDC and professional economic developers is to influence the development and restructuring of a community’s economy and to enhance its well‑being by creating, retaining, and expanding jobs that facilitate progression, enhance wealth, and grow a stable tax base; and

Whereas, IEDC provides leadership and excellence in economic development for communities, members, and partners through conferences, training courses, advisory services and research, in‑depth publications, public policy advocacy, and initiatives, such as the Accredited Economic Development Organization program and the Certified Economic Developer designation; and

Whereas, values encouraged and strengthened by IEDC include accountability, inclusion, integrity, outcomes, and stewardship among economic developers, a profession dedicated to creating career opportunities and improving quality of life; and

Whereas, in order to help establish the next generation of new businesses, which is the hallmark of the American economy, economic developers stimulate and incubate entrepreneurism; and

Whereas, in a wide variety of settings throughout the State, economic developers are engaged in rural and urban, local, state, provincial, and federal governments; public‑private partnerships; chambers of commerce; universities; and an array of other institutions; and

Whereas, economic developers attract and retain high‑quality jobs, develop vibrant communities, and improve the quality of life in their regions; and

Whereas, in preparation for Economic Development Week, the Columbia Empowerment Zone, Inc., has partnered with the City of Columbia in a new Vacant/Abandoned Building Incentive Program that will allow business/non‑business owners the opportunity to renovate vacant/abandoned buildings for the purpose of economic development in the city; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate appreciates the vital impact economic developers have in every county within the Palmetto State and commends their vibrant force within our communities. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognizes and commends the International Economic Development Council and congratulates its officers, staff, and members as they celebrate their ninetieth anniversary during 2016 as “The Year of the Economic Developer.”

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Ryan Coleman, Director of the City of Columbia Economic Development Office.

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