**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE COLUMBIA MAYOR STEVE BENJAMIN ON EARNING THE POSITION OF PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS ON MAY 7, 2018, AND TO WISH HIM MUCH CONTINUED SUCCESS IN HIS ENDEAVORS TO BETTER THE CAPITAL OF OUR GREAT STATE.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate deem it fitting and proper to pause in their deliberations to honor the exemplary work of Mayor Steve Benjamin, husband of the Honorable DeAndrea Gist Benjamin and loving father to Bethany and Jordan Grace.; and

Whereas, on Monday, May 7, 2018, Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin was inaugurated as the seventy‑sixth president of the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM). Prior to this inauguration, Mayor Benjamin served as vice president for the organization. He will serve as president until June 2019; and

Whereas, as president of the USCM, Mayor Benjamin has presided over all official meetings and has developed and advocated for the bipartisan agenda adopted by the nation’s mayors; and

Whereas, for eighty‑five years, the USCM has come together to work on issues that have shaped our cities and guided our nation’s success; and

Whereas, Mayor Benjamin presided over his first official meeting in Boston for the USCM’s eighty‑sixth annual meeting held June 8 through 11, 2018; and

Whereas, since being elected mayor in a record turnout election in April 2010, Mayor Benjamin has made it his mission to create in Columbia the most talented, educated, and entrepreneurial city in the nation. In his first term alone, his leadership led to the decrease in unemployment in our capital city by roughly half and secured billions of dollars in regional capital investment; and

Whereas, furthermore, Mayor Benjamin introduced the “Justice for All” initiative in 2014 as a part of his commitment to fostering a world‑class police department. This implemented new training, competitive pay, diverse representation, and community engagement to strengthen the foundations of trust and accountability that exists between our communities and law enforcement agencies; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate express their gratitude for Mayor Benjamin’s tireless work to increase the quality of life in our capital. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate Columbia Mayor Steven Benjamin on earning the position of President of the United States Conference of Mayors on May 7, 2018, and wish him much continued success in his endeavors to better the capital of our great State.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mayor Steve Benjamin.

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