**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE JOE W. KING UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR FLORENCE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TO COMMEND HIM FOR HIS EIGHTEEN YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO FLORENCE COUNTY, AND TO WISH HIM MUCH HAPPINESS AND FULFILLMENT IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to recognize Joe W. King upon the occasion of his retirement from Florence County Economic Development on June 30, 2022; and

Whereas, a native of Florence, Mr. King was born and raised the oldest of six children on the family farm in the Kingsburg community. He graduated from Charleston Southern University in 1973; and

Whereas, upon graduation, Mr. King moved to Washington D.C. and interned for South Carolina Congressman Ed Young, and this internship fostered his passion for public service; and

Whereas, upon completing his internship, Mr. King began his career as a farmer and businessman, and he became involved with the South Carolina Farm Bureau; and

Whereas, a civic leader, Mr. King successfully ran for Florence County Council in 1988. He served as a councilman for ten years and was elected Chairman by his peers in 1991; and

Whereas, Mr. King left County Council in 1998 to accept the role of Florence County Administrator and served dutifully until 2004, when he accepted the role of Executive Director of the Economic Development Partnership; and

Whereas, Mr. King has flourished during his nearly eighteen years as Executive Director, a time in which Florence County has seen significant growth economically. Some of the companies that have either expanded their operations or broken ground in the county during that time include ABB, Assurant, Charles Ingram Lumber, GE Healthcare, Honda Manufacturing of South Carolina, International Knife and Saw, Niagara, Otis, Patheon, Pepsi, QVC, Roche, Ruiz Foods, Steel Fab, Thermo Fisher, and Wellman Plastics, among others; and

Whereas, Mr. King’s tireless dedication to Florence County for over four decades has changed the landscape of the county as these companies invested over two and a half billion dollars in new investments and created over twelve thousand jobs in Florence County; and

Whereas, Mr. King’s personal commitment and diligent efforts have greatly contributed to the enhanced quality of life that the citizens of Florence County enjoy; and

Whereas, Mr. King is married to Suzanne, and together, they have four children, all of whom currently reside in Florence County. He is the proud grandfather of six grandchildren; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate appreciate the passion and dedication that Mr. King has shown in serving the people and the State of South Carolina. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate Joe W. King upon the occasion of his retirement as Executive Director for Florence County Economic Development, commend him for his eighteen years of dedicated service to Florence County, and wish him much happiness and fulfillment in the years ahead.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Joe W. King.

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