**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE FORT HILL NATURAL GAS AUTHORITY FOR ITS SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF PROVIDING HIGH QUALITY, ACCESSIBLE SERVICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, originally established on March 3, 1952, by an act of the South Carolina General Assembly to serve the municipalities and outlying areas of Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens Counties, the Fort Hill Natural Gas Authority celebrated its seventieth year of operations on March 3, 2022; and

Whereas, taking its name from an old plantation home named “Fort Hill,” which at the time was owned by statesman John C. Calhoun, the Fort Hill Natural Gas Authority began operating in 1956 out of a facility in Easley; and

Whereas, with a humble beginning, by the end of the first full year of operation in 1957, the Fort Hill Natural Gas Authority was prepared and excited to serve its growing customer base of two thousand four hundred seventy, including eight industrial accounts across fourteen towns. In 1962, just ten years after the initial legislative act and five years after being brought up to full operating status, the customer base had nearly doubled to four thousand six hundred seventy‑seven, and the expansion of service access to more towns in the area was quickly in the development stage; and

Whereas, with a nine hundred thousand dollar investment, the Fort Hill Natural Gas Authority expanded to four more towns and managed a portfolio of over six thousand customers by the end of 1963. With an established work force, they were proud to serve well‑known names like Dunlop Sporting Goods, Glenwood Mills, and the Excelsior Finishing Plant among other well‑known industrial accounts; and

Whereas, having expanded to serve the consistent growth of South Carolina over the years, the Fort Hill Natural Gas Authority has grown alongside the State to now serve over forty‑seven thousand customers. With an annual growth of more than a thousand new accounts a year and a dedicated work force of more than ninety employees, the Fort Hill Natural Gas Authority works hard to serve the residents of the Upstate; and

Whereas, dedicated to improving efficiency and lowering operating costs, the Fort Hill Natural Gas Authority has taken advantage of a myriad of technological advances, as well as implementing the convenience of internet‑based customer portals to allow for easy, expedient, and tailored service to each customer; and

Whereas, the Fort Hill Natural Gas Authority has demonstrated a continuing commitment to planning, innovation, excellence, and education of customers, making it a leader in efficient resource management, and positioning itself to maximize opportunities in the decades to come. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate the Fort Hill Natural Gas Authority for its seventieth anniversary of providing high quality, accessible service to the residents of South Carolina.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Fort Hill Natural Gas Authority.

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