**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO MEMORIALIZE THE GOVERNOR AND STATE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE TO INTENSIFY EFFORTS TO CREATE JOBS AND FOSTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL AREAS OF SOUTH CAROLINA THAT FACE CHRONIC LEVELS OF HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT.

Whereas, recent economic development efforts in the Palmetto State have attracted new employers who have brought new jobs to a state with unemployment rates that consistently fall well above the national average; and

Whereas, South Carolina takes great pride in being the new home to quality employers like Boeing in Charleston County, Amazon.com and Nephron Pharmaceuticals in Lexington County, Continental Tire in Sumter County, and Otis Elevator in Florence County, among others, as well as expanding employers who already make their home here, like BMW US Manufacturing in Spartanburg County, Bridgestone Americas, Inc., in Aiken County, Belk’s eCommerce Distribution Center in Union County, and Michelin USA in Anderson and Lexington Counties; and

Whereas, although progress toward job creation in these counties is a very welcome blessing to South Carolina, these areas of the State have not experienced and do not experience the substantially higher rates of unemployment that grip many rural areas of South Carolina; and

Whereas, a greater effort must be made to bring similar such job creation to areas of the State that suffer from the highest rates of unemployment, particularly those counties with unemployment rates over ten percent, which are Marion, Allendale, Barnwell, Bamberg, Marlboro, Dillon, Orangeburg, Clarendon, Union, Chester, McCormick, and Williamsburg; and

Whereas, it is the sense of the General Assembly that Governor Haley and her Secretary of Commerce should approach economic development in these rural areas of South Carolina with the same commitment and vigor that they apply to job recruitment in larger areas of the State that have enjoyed and continue to enjoy relatively low and stable levels of unemployment. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the General Assembly, by this resolution, memorialize the Governor and State Secretary of Commerce to intensify efforts to create jobs and foster economic development in rural areas of South Carolina that face chronic levels of high unemployment.

Be it further resolved that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Honorable Nikki R. Haley, Governor of South Carolina, and to the Honorable Robert M. Hitt III, Secretary of Commerce.

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