**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE FORESTER GENE KODAMA FOR WINNING THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS’ GIFFORD PINCHOT MEDAL AND TO RECOGNIZE HIM FOR HIS WORK AS STATE FORESTER.

Whereas, the members of the Senate are pleased to learn that State Forester Gene Kodama received the Society of American Foresters’ Gifford Pinchot Medal; and

Whereas, one of the most prestigious awards in the forestry industry, the Gifford Pinchot Medal is awarded every two years to a forestry professional in recognition of exceptional contributions to the administration, practice and development of forestry in North America; and

Whereas, endorsements for Kodama’s nomination came from leaders in the forestry and forest products industries around the world. Nominees for the medal must have demonstrated exemplary actions that further the field of forestry by making an indelible mark on the profession and being a person of action; and

Whereas, Mr. Kodama became state forester on January 1, 2008 after spending more than three decades in the forest products industry. He worked for MeadWestvaco Corporation, served as CEO of Forest Technology Group, and as a member and partner with Principle Enterprises and Advance Investments; and

Whereas, a South Carolina native, Mr. Kodama has undergraduate and graduate degrees in forestry from Clemson University. He has served on Clemson University’s Board of Visitors and the Department of Forestry and Extension Advisory Boards; and

Whereas, Mr. Kodama is an avid outdoorsman and conservationist. He is an active member the National Wild Turkey Federation and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and is a hunter education instructor for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Kodama is involved in the Summerville community, having served in leadership positions with area chambers of commerce and in the United Methodist Church. In 2002, he served as chair of the South Carolina Forestry Association; and

Whereas, the members of the Senate are grateful for the dedicated service Mr. Kodama has given to the South Carolina Forestry Commission and for the positive recognition he has brought to the state through his work. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the Senate, by this resolution, congratulate South Carolina State Forester Gene Kodama for winning the Society of American Foresters’ Gifford Pinchot Medal and recognize him for his work as state forester.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mr. Gene Kodama.

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