**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR SOPAKCO FOR FIFTY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY OF MULLINS, SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, SOPAKCO was founded in Greeneville, Tennessee, in 1943 in response to the war effort. During its more than seventy years of business, SOPAKCO has grown and evolved in many ways; and

Whereas, the company began commercial warehousing in 1964, and the name was changed to Southern Packaging & Storage Company to reflect its new activities. In 1965, SOPAKCO moved its operations to Mullins, South Carolina, to take advantage of its proximity to coastal ports and the available labor force; and

Whereas, the move to Mullins brought Marnat Packaging Company to SOPAKCO’s attention as a supplier, and in 1979, the company was purchased by SOPAKCO. The company began expanding and in 1981 added a second food processing facility. In 1986, Southern Packaging & Storage Company became SOPAKCO, and the Edward Gene Research and Development Facility was dedicated; and

Whereas, for over seventy years, from the initial 200 Ration product and continuing through to the MRE (Meals, Ready‑to‑Eat), SOPAKCO has remained a constant and dynamic participant in both the military ration program and the packaging industry. With its dedication to remain a leader in the industry, SOPAKCO will continue to provide a dynamic impact within the industry for the next seventy years; and

Whereas, SOPAKCO’s success is due in part to its early growth, but also to the company’s management team for staying abreast of directional market changes, and to its owners and directors, for taking a proactive approach to maintaining a dominating position in the marketplace. All of these reasons, coupled with the support of the Mullins community, are what make SOPAKCO the great industry leader it is today. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor SOPAKCO for fifty years of dedicated service to the community of Mullins, South Carolina.

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