**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR HELEN STEPHENS FOR HER SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO AND PARTICIPATION IN THE HORRY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., AND TO CONGRATULATE HER UPON BEING NAMED THE COOPERATIVE’S 2016 RURAL LADY OF THE YEAR.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly are pleased to learn that Helen Stephens will be honored on March 4, 2016, with the Rural Lady of the Year Award by the Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.; and

Whereas, born and reared in Horry County, she married a farmer and has been associated with Horry Electric Cooperative all her life; and

Whereas, Mrs. Stephens worked on the family farm for more than two decades, serving as the de facto COO, and was involved in every aspect of her family’s more than forty‑acre farming operation and in all the daily farming decisions; and

Whereas, dedicated to making Horry County a better place to live, she always gave one hundred percent to every task on the farm; and

Whereas, for many years, Mrs. Stephens devoted herself to preserving and protecting rural living while herself living and enjoying rural life; and

Whereas, today Mrs. Stephens is a local business owner in Conway, where she displays strong management skills and the rural ethic of hard work and honesty, so basic to her life, and inspires all who know her with her dependability and caring attitude; and

Whereas, together with her beloved husband, the late Billy Stephens, she reared three fine children: Kristi Stephens Bratcher, Nancy Stephens Mikres, and Jonathan Stephens. They have blessed her with four adoring granddaughters: Anna, Kaylee, Kirby, and Isla Grace; and

Whereas, although she thoroughly enjoys gardening, her favorite pastime is spending time with her children and grandchildren, and on Sunday mornings, she faithfully attends Maple Baptist Church in Conway; and

Whereas, deeply grateful for her dedication to rural life and her significant contributions to the Horry Electric Cooperative, the South Carolina General Assembly takes great pleasure in acknowledging Helen Stephens as the 2016 Rural Lady of the Year. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, recognize and honor Helen Stephens for her significant participation in the Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc., and congratulate her upon being named the cooperative’s 2016 Rural Lady of the Year.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Helen Stephens.

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