**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO MEMORIALIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, THE HONORABLE RAY H. LAHOOD, TO SET ASIDE THE FUNDS NECESSARY TO ACQUIRE THE RIGHT‑OF‑WAY AND BUILD THE APPROXIMATELY TWELVE‑MILE PORTION OF INTERSTATE 73 FROM ITS INTERSECTION WITH SOUTH CAROLINA HIGHWAY 34 TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH UNITED STATES HIGHWAY 501.

Whereas, the United States Congress and the President of the United States recently enacted the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which marks a major milestone on our nation’s road to economic recovery and makes immediate investments in our nation’s people and infrastructure that will put our citizens back to work; and

Whereas, a portion of this economic stimulus package has been designated to assist state and local governments to design and build highway projects of national and regional significance; and

Whereas, in 2005, the United States Congress designated Interstate Highway 73 as a highway of national and regional significance which is part of a six‑state corridor that would eventually connect the states of South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, and Michigan; and

Whereas, the construction of the South Carolina portion of this highway alone would create at least seven thousand seven hundred jobs per year over a five‑year period; and

Whereas, the counties that would receive the greatest economic benefit from this construction project are among the counties with the highest unemployment rates in the nation: Marion, Marlboro, and Dillon counties; and

Whereas the South Carolina portion of this interstate highway also would provide the State with an additional evacuation route when hurricanes threaten our coastal areas; and

Whereas, in addition, Interstate Highway 73 would benefit both the urban centers of population and the regions that border its corridor by creating a direct route for transshipping American and foreign‑made goods from the warm water ports of Charleston, Georgetown, Wilmington, and Savannah to the Cleveland/Detroit region and beyond to Canada; and

Whereas, for South Carolina to complete its portion of this highway project, it is critical that the United States Department of Transportation serve as a partner with both state and local officials by setting aside a portion of its American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 appropriation for this purpose. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the House of Representatives, by this resolution, memorialize the United States Secretary of Transportation, The Honorable Ray H. LaHood, to set aside the funds necessary for the State of South Carolina to acquire the right‑of‑way and build the approximately twelve‑mile portion of Interstate 73 from its intersection with South Carolina Highway 34 to its intersection with United States Highway 501.

Be it further resolved that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the United States Secretary of Transportation, The Honorable Ray H. LaHood, and each member of the South Carolina Congressional delegation.

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