**A** **CONCURRENT 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 SIX‑MILE PORTION OF INTERSTATE 73 FROM “THE INTERSECTION OF HOPE” AT ITS INTERSECTION WITH INTERSTATE 95 TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH UNITED STATES HIGHWAY 501 WHICH CONSTITUTES THE FIRST PHASE OF CONSTRUCTION OF INTERSTATE 73 IN SOUTH CAROLINA, AND SET ASIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO COMPLETE THE REMAINING PORTION OF THIS INTERSTATE HIGHWAY AS THESE FUNDS BECOME AVAILABLE.

Whereas, Interstate 73 would provide great economic benefits within the North Eastern Strategic Alliance (NESA) region and the State of South Carolina; and

Whereas, in 1991, as part of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), the United States Congress recognized the Interstate 73 corridor as a Corridor of National and Regional Significance and the fifth highest national priority project; and

Whereas, Interstate 73 would provide an additional evacuation route, ultimately saving lives; and

Whereas, Interstate 73 would stimulate tourism from the eastern portion of the United States; and

Whereas, Interstate 73 would stimulate economic development throughout the NESA region; and

Whereas, the annual construction impact on the regional economy is estimated at $818.9 million. The project will also have an additional annual impact of $277.8 million on household income; and

Whereas, Interstate 73 will provide opportunities for the creation of thousands of jobs and improve the overall quality of life of the citizens of the NESA region; and

Whereas, the NESA region includes counties with some of the highest unemployment rates in the nation; and

Whereas, Interstate 73 would benefit both urban centers of population and the regions bordering 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 and Detroit region and beyond to Canada. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the General Assembly of South Carolina, 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 six‑mile portion of Interstate 73 beginning with, and including the “Intersection of Hope” at Interstate 95 to its intersection with United States Highway 501, and set aside additional funds to complete the remaining portion of this interstate highway as these funds become available.

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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