**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO DECLARE WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2012, AS “SOUTH CAROLINA RECYCLERS DAY” AND TO COMMEND AND RECOGNIZE SOUTH CAROLINA’S RECYCLERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR STATE’S ECONOMY, FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO PROMOTE ENERGY EFFICIENCY, AND FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP IN PROVIDING SUSTAINABLE MATERIAL‑MANAGEMENT OPTIONS.

Whereas, recycling in South Carolina creates jobs, supports economic development, increases prosperity, conserves natural resources, promotes energy efficiency, decreases production costs, and inspires innovation; and

Whereas, the upgrading and processing of recycled materials adds $6.5 billion annually to South Carolina’s economy through the provision of local jobs, manufacturing of recycled‑content materials, and responsible material‑management solutions. Additionally, the recycling industry is projected to increase approximately 12 percent on an annual basis, with an economic impact to the State of $11 billion by 2012; and

Whereas, in South Carolina, the recycling industry is directly responsible for more than 37,440 jobs, $1.5 billion in annual personal income, and an estimated $69 million in tax revenue each year; and

Whereas, the South Carolina recycling industry announced $333 million in capital investment, the creation of more than 800 jobs, with fifteen new or existing companies investing in the State in 2011. The recycling industry is comprised of haulers, collectors, processors, brokers, recycling‑equipment sales and manufacturers, and end‑users, or manufacturers who use recycled‑material feedstock and make recycled‑content products from it; and

Whereas, in addition to recycling, other green‑industry sector companies in South Carolina announced over $526 million in capital investment and more than 2,700 green jobs, with twenty‑five new or existing companies investing in the State in 2011. The green‑industry sector is comprised of recycling companies, as well as those that help reduce the use of fossil fuels, pollution, and GHG emissions; develop renewable energy sources; and increase the efficiency of energy usage; and

Whereas, the state recycling rate in 2010 was 25.5 percent and resulted in 1,063,521 tons of municipal solid waste recycled in South Carolina. By making small changes in daily routines to incorporate recycling, South Carolinians can make a significant impact on their economy and environment; and

Whereas, through the recognition and promotion of the economic, energy, and environmental benefits of recycling, South Carolina’s recycling industry will grow, thereby creating efficient market‑based solutions for various energy and waste‑management concerns; and

Whereas, the significant energy benefits of recycling provide greater diversity and reliability to the South Carolina energy grid while protecting the state’s natural resources. The manufacture of recycled products requires, on average, seventeen times less energy than manufacturing the same products from virgin materials. Against a backdrop of relatively high energy and metals prices, as well as growing concerns over environmental pollution, the recycling industry represents one of the most pragmatic solutions readily available to conserve scarce natural resources, reduce production costs, and lessen total energy consumption. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, declare Wednesday, February 1, 2012, as “South Carolina Recyclers Day” and commend and recognize South Carolina’s recyclers for their contributions to our state’s economy, for their efforts to promote energy efficiency, and for their leadership in providing sustainable material‑management options.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑