**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO COMMEND THE ASSOCIATION FOR ENTERPRISE OPPORTUNITY (AEO), A NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION AND VOICE OF MICROENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT IN THE UNITED STATES, TO RECOGNIZE ITS PRESIDENT AND CEO, CONNIE EVANS, FOR HER VISIONARY LEADERSHIP OF AEO, AND TO DECLARE THE MONTH OF JUNE 2011 AS “MICROENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT MONTH” IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, the Association for Enterprise Opportunity (AEO), a national membership organization and voice of microenterprise development in the United States, for nearly two decades has helped more than two million entrepreneurs support themselves and their families and contribute to their communities through business ownership; and

Whereas, AEO supports the development of strong and effective American microenterprise initiatives to assist underserved entrepreneurs in starting, stabilizing, and expanding businesses. AEO strives to strengthen and restructure the microenterprise field to serve as a robust source of sustainable products and services to an increasing number of disadvantaged and underserved entrepreneurs; and

Whereas, in addition, AEO seeks to link the needs of a growing microenterprise sector to an ecosystem of market partners for greater economic impact and to catalyze new solutions and the rapid adoption of transformational standards and innovation; and

Whereas, AEO members have helped more than two million entrepreneurs create jobs for themselves and their communities, and AEO has secured more than three hundred million federal dollars for microfinance industry participants since 2001 through its policy advocacy efforts. Through AEO‑managed programs, member organizations have received around twenty million dollars in private funding to improve and expand vital programs and services to disadvantaged entrepreneurs and communities, while entrepreneurs have received one million four hundred thousand dollars in technology and equity awards; and

Whereas, AEO president and CEO Connie Evans is to be commended for her vision and professionalism in leading AEO to its present level of achievement. As leader of this national nonprofit organization and business trade association, which represents nearly four hundred member organizations providing training, technical assistance, and resources to entrepreneurs across the United States, Connie Evans has been recognized and utilized by such groups as the World Bank, the Clinton Administration, and a host of other groups from local governments to private and independent sector organizations; and

Whereas, the recipient of numerous awards, Ms. Evans has served for many years on the boards of philanthropic organizations and lectured in universities throughout the United States. She is a frequent panelist and keynote speaker at conferences around the globe. Her broad experiences across the worlds of business and finance compliment her skills in development finance; and

Whereas, cognizant of the worthy goals of the AEO, the South Carolina House of Representatives wishes to commend the organization and its president, Connie Evans, for their fine work in the field of microenterprise development. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, commend the Association for Enterprise Opportunity (AEO), a national membership organization and voice of microenterprise development in the United States, recognize its president and CEO, Connie Evans, for her visionary leadership of AEO, and declare the month of June 2011 as “Microenterprise Development Month” in South Carolina.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Connie Evans, President and CEO of the Association for Enterprise Opportunity.

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