**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE THANKS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR CARNIVAL CRUISE LINES’ CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ECONOMIC WELL‑BEING OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND FOR THE COMPANY’S COMMITMENT TO OPERATING IN A BALANCED MANNER THAT IS SENSITIVE TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

Whereas, recognizing that the economic contributions of Carnival Cruise Lines to the economic well‑being of the Palmetto State are substantial, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to recognize the company as a conscientious good corporate citizen of this State and to commend Carnival Cruise Lines for its commitment to operating in a balanced manner that is sensitive to the environment; and

Whereas, in 2009, the South Carolina State Ports Authority commissioned a study to determine an estimate of the economic contributions of the authority’s 2010 cruise ship activity to the region’s economy. The resulting report stated that in many port cities cruise ships are part of the portfolio of tourism activities and that Charleston has experienced this same result with Charleston origination and port‑of‑call cruises having a measurable economic impact on tourism and the Lowcountry economy; and

Whereas, as part of the study, a survey was conducted to determine the spending patterns of passengers and crew scheduled to be on ships serving Charleston in 2010. Based on survey results, each Carnival Cruise Lines ship was projected to bring approximately $323,000 in local direct spending (for example, purchases made or services purchased by passengers or crew); and

Whereas, the study also estimated that of the passengers on all ships that will make Charleston a port‑of‑call, 66.49 percent would leave the ship and visit the City, which amounted to 11,303 additional tourists. Total passenger spending was estimated to be $5,552,496; and crew members were estimated to spend $2,606,575. Cruise line companies were projected to spend an estimated $14,143,535 in direct spending; and

Whereas, when indirect spending (for example, goods and services bought by restaurants to provide meals to customers) was added to direct spending, the estimated total impact for 2010 was $37,024,340, which was projected to generate 407 jobs in the Tri‑County region, paying a total of $16,193,200 in labor income. The annual wage earning for these jobs averaged $39,786 and were in job sectors such as transportation, retail, wholesale trade, food and beverage, and retail grocery stores. In addition, state sales and income taxes were projected to grow to $3,483,113; and

Whereas, the survey, moreover, indicated that a very high percentage of passengers were likely to pay a return visit to the State within five years and would recommend that friends and relatives visit, as well; and

Whereas, not only has the study commissioned by the South Carolina Ports Authority demonstrated the economic contributions of cruise ships to Charleston, as well as to the State, the authority also prides itself on maintaining an environmentally sound port. The authority has reported that Carnival Cruise Lines, and all other lines that bring ships to the Charleston port, is a member of Cruise Lines International Association, a cruise industry trade association, which has collectively and voluntarily set strict environmental standards and practices that exceed federal and international law, thereby partnering with the authority in its commitment to operating in a balanced and environmentally sensitive manner; and

Whereas, grateful for Carnival Cruise Lines’ investment in the Palmetto State, the House of Representatives takes great pleasure in commending the company for its contributions to South Carolina’s economy and for its sensitivity to pertinent environmental issues. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, express their thanks for Carnival Cruise Lines’ contributions to the economic well‑being of South Carolina and for the company’s commitment to operating in a balanced manner that is sensitive to the environment.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Carnival Cruise Lines.

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