**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE BELIEF OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT NASCAR RACING IS AN INTEGRAL AND VITAL PART OF THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND ITS ECONOMY, TO RECOGNIZE THE DARLINGTON RACEWAY AS ONE OF OUR STATE’S MOST TREASURED ATTRACTIONS AND NASCAR RACING AS A SIGNIFICANT PART OF SOUTH CAROLINA’S RICH HISTORY, AND TO NAME THE WEEK OF MAY 2-8 2011, AS “DARLINGTON RACEWAY WEEK, A WEEK TOO TOUGH TO TAME.”

Whereas, the Darlington Raceway opened on September 4, 1950, with the inaugural running of the Southern 500, the first stock car race on a paved track; and

Whereas, since 1950, Darlington Raceway has served as a cornerstone in the development of stock car racing, one of the fastest growing and most popular spectator sports in the country; and

Whereas, Darlington Raceway is celebrating its 61st season of racing; and

Whereas, Darlington Raceway still hosts its annual spring race events, which will be held this year during the week of May 2, 2011, culminating with the Showtime Southern 500 on Saturday, May 7, 2011; and

Whereas, South Carolina lays claim to many of the legends of NASCAR racing, including Rex White, David Pearson, Bud Moore, James Hylton, Tiny Lund, and Cale Yarborough; and

Whereas, the State of South Carolina is rich in historical references to the sport of stock car racing, as evidenced by the Darlington Raceway Stock Car Museum, the Joe Weatherly Stock Car Museum, and the National Motorsports Press Association Hall of Fame at Darlington Raceway, in addition to dirt raceways across the State of South Carolina that served as home to the fledgling sport of NASCAR racing in the 1950’s; and

Whereas, the NASCAR events at Darlington focus our nation’s attention and the attention of the world upon our great State as a sport and tourism destination each year; and

Whereas, the annual economic impact that NASCAR racing has on South Carolina is in excess of 50 million of dollars, as NASCAR fans from across the country and around the world visit the State each year to attend racing events and then vacation in communities throughout the Palmetto State; and

Whereas, the Darlington Raceway participates as a good corporate citizen at the local, regional, and state levels and is active in numerous community and charitable efforts that contribute to the improvement of the people and the State of South Carolina; and, Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the General Assembly, by this resolution, express the belief that NASCAR racing is an integral and vital part of the State of South Carolina and its economy and recognize Darlington Raceway as one of our state’s most treasured attractions and NASCAR racing as a significant part of the rich history of the State of South Carolina.

Be it further resolved that the week of May 2-8 2011, be officially recognized as, “Darlington Raceway Week, the Week Too Tough to Tame in South Carolina.”

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to NASCAR and the Darlington Raceway.

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