**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR MR. O.L. THOMPSON FOR HIS SUCCESSFUL LEADERSHIP AS CHAIRMAN OF SANTEE COOPER DURING ONE OF THE MOST TURBULENT TIMES SINCE THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND FOR HIS LONG HISTORY OF SERVICE TO THE PALMETTO STATE, AND TO WISH HIM CONTINUED ACHIEVEMENT IN HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, it is altogether fitting that the members of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina pause in their deliberations to thank and congratulate Mr. O.L. Thompson for his outstanding service as Chairman of Santee Cooper from 2006 until 2013; and

Whereas, during his time at Santee Cooper, Chairman Thompson lead a unified board focused on the best interests of the utility’s customers and the Palmetto State despite rapid changes in the industry and the economic challenges caused by the Great Recession; and

Whereas, Chairman Thompson’s tenure with Santee Cooper coincided with energy rates twenty-four percent below the national average, a twelve percent increase in the number of retail customers, an eight percent increase in annual retail sales, and a thirteen percent increase in primary miles of distribution line; and

Whereas, Chairman Thompson’s term included high levels of customer service, resulting in the JD Power Customer Satisfaction Award for Mid‑Size Utilities in the South in 2009, a monumental mark for distribution reliability of 99.9972 percent in the Average System Availability Index in 2009, a distribution reliability of 99.9968 percent in 2011, and a transmission reliability of 99.9985 percent in 2012; and

Whereas, Chairman Thompson oversaw Santee Cooper’s application for and start of construction of two new pressurized water reactors at the Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station in Jenkinsville, South Carolina, one of only two such projects in the country; and

Whereas, Chairman Thompson’s leadership was essential to significant agreements between Santee Cooper and its customers, including two ten‑year wholesale power agreements with Piedmont Municipal Power Agency and Alabama Municipal Electric Authority in 2010 and a forty-five‑year agreement with Central Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. and its twenty electric cooperatives, Santee Cooper’s largest customer, in 2013; and

Whereas, Chairman Thompson skillfully guided the economic development partnership among the South Carolina Power Team, Santee Cooper, Central Electric Power Cooperative, counties, and other allies from 2006 to 2012, which has resulted in over 28,000 jobs and over $5 billion in capital investment; and

Whereas, through Chairman Thompson’s direction, Santee Cooper maintained AA credit ratings, issued over $1.6 billion in refunding bonds that will provide customers with over $137.1 million in gross savings and $103.7 million in net present value savings, and issued over $3.6 billion in bonds to finance on‑going construction programs at some of the lowest rates in Santee Cooper’s history; and

Whereas, during Chairman Thompson’s term, Santee Cooper loaned over $7.5 million to residents for improving the energy efficiency of their homes, initiated the Green Power Solar School Program to help middle school students achieve required standards for math and science, celebrated the twentieth anniversary of Give Oil For Energy Recovery, and began commercial operation of the Lake Marion Regional Water System; and

Whereas, under Chairman Thompson’s leadership, Santee Cooper consistently ranked high in diversity of workforce, with more than 1,000 employees, and recorded a steady drop of injuries and preventable motor vehicle accidents, reaching an historic low in 2009; and

Whereas, in addition to his time with Santee Cooper, Chairman Thompson has exemplified the life of a citizen‑leader, having served as a member of South Carolina’s Coordinating Council for Economic Development; a member and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Palmetto Economic Development Corporation; a member, Chairman, and Director Emeritus of the Board of Directors of the South Carolina Trucking Association; a member and Chairman of the Construction Network of the Carolinas; a member of the Board of Directors of The Bank of Charleston; a member of the South Carolina Mining Council; a member of the Board of Directors of The Center for Birds of Prey; a member of the Charleston Southern University Board of Trustees; a member of the Board of Directors of the Windwood Farm Home for Children; a member of the Board of Directors of the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition; a member of the Board of Directors of the Roper St. Francis Foundation; a member of the Board of Directors of the Dee Norton Lowcountry Children’s Center; a member of the Board of Trustees for Trident Technical College; a member of the Board of Directors for the Charleston Chamber of Commerce; and an Honorary Commander of Charleston Air Force Base; and

Whereas, Chairman Thompson is widely regarded as one of the premier businessmen in South Carolina, having been integral in building the single largest, most complex, and demanding infrastructure project ever in South Carolina, The Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge, and having run many successful companies, including O.L. Thompson Construction Company, Thompson Trucking Co., and Wando Concrete; and

Whereas, together with his beloved wife, Toni, Chairman Thompson reared three fine children, Matt, Dan, and Adrienne, who have blessed the family with five adoring grandchildren; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly commend Chairman Thompson for his long history of service and wish him continued success in his future endeavors. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, recognize and honor O.L. Thompson for his successful leadership as Chairman of Santee Cooper during one of the most turbulent times since the Great Depression and for his long history of service to the Palmetto State, and wish him continued achievement in his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mr. O.L. Thompson.

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