**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE MS. CONNIE SHADE UPON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT AFTER FORTY-FIVE YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE LOWER SAVANNAH COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS AND TO OFFER BEST WISHES FOR A SATISFYING AND REWARDING RETIREMENT.

Whereas, since 1970, Ms. Connie Shade has served the Lower Savannah Council of Governments (LSCOG) and the communities in the region. She retired on September 1, 2015 after many years of dedicated service; and

Whereas, Ms. Shade began working for the LSCOG as office manager when the organization was only two years old. She was one of six employees. The agency now has fifty employees. Throughout the years, she has served in nearly every program of the COG; and

Whereas, Ms. Shade has taken the lead to identify and to implement new initiatives that have proven to be invaluable in impacting the quality of life for local citizens and helping communities in the region thrive. Over the years, the LSCOG has been instrumental in generating over $558 million in state and federal grants for cities and counties in the region which is used to offer successful programs ranging from community development, economic development, regional planning, regional housing, workforce development, and tourism. The COG also contracts locally for services to help under-employed workers, at-risk youth, older adults, those who need transportation, and businesses and industries; and

Whereas, during her time as assistant executive director, Ms. Shade assisted in the development of the Three Rivers Solid Waste Authority, a national model solid waste facility shared by nine counties. She led the region’s work in transit system development and coordination, igniting the vision in 2000 of a coordinating regional transportation network, following a study on regional coordination among transit providers. She led efforts to develop and implement public transit systems in four counties in the region, all of which are still operating successfully. She leaves all of the LSCOG programs enjoying a reputation for meeting or exceeding regulatory requirements, high performance, and fiscal responsibility; and

Whereas, Ms. Shade has proven to be a devoted and passionate leader for the LSCOG. In her retirement, she is looking forward to spending time with her family, especially her one-year-old granddaughter, traveling, and staying involved in community affairs; and

Whereas, the members of the Senate are grateful for the leadership Ms. Shade has bestowed on the Lower Savannah Council of Governments and for the impact she has had on the citizens of South Carolina and the members wish her well as she enters a much deserved retirement. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the Senate, by this resolution, recognize and congratulate Ms. Connie Shade upon the occasion of her retirement after forty-five years of dedicated service to the Lower Savannah Council of Governments and offer best wishes for a satisfying and rewarding retirement.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Ms. Connie Shade.

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