**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO DECLARE APRIL 2017 AS “LOVE THE ANNE SPRINGS CLOSE GREENWAY MONTH” IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO ENCOURAGE ALL CITIZENS OF THE PALMETTO STATE TO VISIT AND ENJOY THIS BEAUTIFUL NATURE PRESERVE AND RECREATIONAL PARK IN FORT MILL.

Whereas, the Anne Springs Close Greenway, a 2,100‑acre nature preserve and recreational park in Fort Mill, was established in 1995 on land donated by the children of Anne Springs Close to honor her lifelong commitment to recreation and the environment. The people of South Carolina are the fortunate beneficiaries of this munificent gift, which serves as a natural buffer from urban development and a place for countless activities; and

Whereas, more than 250,000 people visited the Greenway in 2016 to participate in its many outdoor recreational and educational opportunities, including kayaking, picnicking, hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding on more than forty miles of trails. Thousands of local students are enrolled in the Greenway’s nature‑focused educational programs each year, and its live summer concert series, Fall Frolic, Fiddle ’n Pig, Christmas Crafts Show, and other special events have become community favorites; and

Whereas, as a not‑for‑profit entity, the Greenway receives no ongoing tax dollars to build, maintain, or operate its programs, trails, and facilities. Owned and managed by Leroy Springs & Company, which has been providing recreational and educational opportunities to the communities surrounding Springs Industries facilities for over sixty years, the Greenway is funded in part by memberships, program fees, and generous donations from individuals and corporations; and

Whereas, this spring, the Greenway will feature two family‑oriented special events: the Blue Star Blitz on April 1, 2017, a grassroots hike‑a‑thon fundraiser on the popular Blue Star trail; and the Greenway’s annual Earth Day Celebration on April 22, 2017, which will feature a live concert at the Comporium Amphitheater and many other free and fun‑filled activities for the whole family; and

Whereas, the General Assembly takes great pleasure in celebrating the rich heritage of the Greenway and the vision of its inspirational leader, Anne Springs Close. The people of this great State are urged to take advantage of the many family‑friendly offerings at the Anne Springs Close Greenway throughout the year. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, declare April 2017 as “Love the Anne Springs Close Greenway Month” in South Carolina and encourage all citizens of the Palmetto State to visit and enjoy this beautiful nature preserve and recreational park in Fort Mill.

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