**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE THE SOUTH CAROLINA PORTS AUTHORITY’S PORT AMBASSADOR PROGRAM AND TO HONOR THE 2017-2018 PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS.

Whereas, the South Carolina Ports Authority, established by the General Assembly in 1942, owns and operates public seaport facilities in Charleston, Dillon, Georgetown, and Greer. An economic development engine for the State, port operations facilitate 187,200 statewide jobs and generate nearly $53 billion in annual economic activity, or 10% of the State’s annual product. With the Southeast’s deepest port, the Ports Authority is the industry leader in delivering speed‑to‑market, seamless processes and the flexibility to ensure reliable operations, big ship handling, efficient market reach, and environmental responsibility; and

Whereas, the Port Ambassador Program was created in 2016 with the mission of increasing public awareness and understanding of the Ports Authority’s strategic plan, ensuring the port will become the preferred top‑ten port in the nation. The program also develops a network of graduates to assist in fostering goodwill, understanding, acceptance, and advocacy in local and statewide leaders; and

Whereas, Port Ambassadors are South Carolinians currently exhibiting leadership and influence within their respective sectors of business, philanthropy, or community service. Ambassadors are involved individuals who are already making a difference in the economic, cultural, and social quality of life in South Carolina; and

Whereas, the program consists of delegates nominated by each of the ten Ports Authority Review and Oversight Commission members, the nine members of the Ports Authority Board of Directors, and the Ports Authority Senior Management team. During the eight-month program, delegates are familiarized with the inner workings of the port and intermodal industry through a series of educational sessions, tours, and special events; and

Whereas, the 2017‑18 class of community and industry leaders includes Bob Barrineau, Mac Bennett, Danny Black, Doug Boston, James Burns, Susanne Cantey, Sky Foster, Tavia Gaddy, Tommy Hall, Brad Henry, Elizabeth Hills, Grayson Kelly, Craig Kinley, Mark Lattanzio, Christin Mack, Bill Medich, Leah Moody, Chakisse Newton, Kenneth Nix, Lowndes Pope, Keith Rourk, Jamie Scott, Brian Stern, Anna Thies, and Walt Tobin; and

Whereas, as the fastest growing major container port in the United States, with a 58% growth rate and record container growth in 2017, the port looks ahead to continuing aggressive volume growth, financial growth, and historic infrastructure investments; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly appreciate the dedication and commitment of the South Carolina Ports Authority to the people and the State of South Carolina. 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 the South Carolina Ports Authority’s Port Ambassador Program and honor the 2017-2018 program participants.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the South Carolina Ports Authority.

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