**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE ROHMING ROBOTS, THE CLEMSON EXTENSION 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT’S FIRST TECH CHALLENGE TEAM, FOR WINNING THE INSPIRE AWARD AT THE 2018-2019 SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST TECH CHALLENGE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate is proud to recognize the Rohming Robots for winning the Inspire Award, the highest honor at the 2018-2019 South Carolina FIRST Tech Challenge State Championship; and

Whereas, the FIRST Tech Challenge is sponsored by the national nonprofit organization FIRST, For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, which provides youth opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Each year, over seven thousand FIRST Tech Challenge teams around the world and forty-two teams in the State of South Carolina participate. This year’s FIRST Tech Challenge theme is “Rover Ruckus”; and

Whereas, the winning Rohming Robots team is composed of Will Becker, Jacob Blauch, Nick Emlaw, Rachel Emlaw, Justus Faidley, Ethan Lazarin, Ben Siegal, Braden Siegal, Andrew Smoak, Gray Stewart, and Samantha Strutz and is coached by Linda Stewart and Andrew Blauch; and

Whereas, the team’s mission has consistently been to encourage others to learn new skills, grow in their understanding of science and technology, and try new endeavors; and

Whereas, in the state championship, the Rohming Robots designed, built, and programmed an autonomous robot to complete certain missions, such as landing on a playing field, sampling minerals, claiming a depot, and parking in a crater; and

Whereas, throughout the season, team members on the Rohming Robots created a detailed engineering notebook logging meetings, outreach, and design ideas and documenting their engineering process. At the state championship, they presented their extensive work to the judges; and

Whereas, as a close model of real-world engineering, FIRST competitions combine the excitement of sports with the rigors of science and technology. FIRST participants have proven to be more motivated to do well in school; to be more likely to take challenging math or science courses or ultimately major in science or engineering; to show improved problem solving, time management, conflict resolution, and communication skills; and to express a greater interest in going to college; and

Whereas, as an affiliate partner for the South Carolina FIRST Tech Challenge, the South Carolina Robotics Education Foundation aims to stimulate students’ interest and capabilities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, thereby increasing the number of talented and skilled students who pursue careers in these areas; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate appreciate the pride and recognition that FIRST and the Rohming Robots have brought to the 4-H and the Charleston community and wish them success at the FIRST Championship in Houston, Texas. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate the Rohming Robots, the Clemson Extension 4-H Youth Development’s FIRST Tech Challenge team, for winning the Inspire Award at the 2018-2019 South Carolina First Tech Challenge State Championship.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Rohming Robots.

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