**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE POWDERSVILLE WATER DISTRICT FOR ITS FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF PROVIDING HIGH QUALITY, ACCESSIBLE WATER SERVICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, originally founded in 1971, the idea behind what is now the Powdersville Water District began as early as September of 1967, when a group of concerned citizens, spurred on by community leaders, discussed bringing “city water” to the area, due to one of the driest years on record during which well water was running dry; and

Whereas, in 1968, this group formed the Saluda Valley-Powdersville Water Company, and organizers took steps to secure funds necessary to build a water system to meet the community’s needs. Scores of volunteers managed a customer signup desk at the local fire station on Highway 81, signing up 1,200 customers, charging just seventy-five dollars for a residential tap. This effort resulted in a Farmers Home Administration Loan of over one million dollars to fund the new water system; and

Whereas, all the planning came to fruition in June of 1971, when water began flowing to 1,260 customers. The first official company meeting was held in the parking lot of the headquarters’ future site from a flatbed trailer because the office building was not yet complete. The building would be dedicated later that year on October 23, 1971, with Senator Strom Thurmond giving the keynote address; and

Whereas, by 1992, the customer base had grown to 6,200 people, the company’s name had been changed to Powdersville Water Company, and a new building had been built at the present location on Highway 81; and

Whereas, in 2001, with close to 9,000 customers, the company became a special purpose district and changed its name to the Powdersville Water District, as it is known today; and

Whereas, in 2020, the Powdersville Water District upgraded its connection with Greenville Water in order to purchase the substantial majority of its water from this reliable and robust source. The system now has more than 14,000 active taps and delivers an average of 3.25 million gallons of water to approximately 35,000 citizens; and

Whereas, the Powdersville Water District, and its predecessor companies, have demonstrated a continuing commitment to planning, innovation, excellence, and education of customers on wise water usage, making it a leader in efficient resource management, and positioning itself to maximize opportunities in the decades to come. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate the Powdersville Water District for its fiftieth anniversary of providing high quality, accessible water service to the residents of South Carolina.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Powdersville Water District.

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