**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO COMMEND THE TOWN OF SULLIVAN’S ISLAND FOR PROTECTING AND PRESERVING THE MARITIME FOREST OF SULLIVAN’S ISLAND AND TO SUPPORT ITS EFFORTS TO CONTINUE TO SAFEGUARD THIS VALUABLE HABITAT.

Whereas, in a time when most coastal communities worry about losing beach to erosion, Sullivan’s Island has the unique distinction of an accreting beach which supports a one hundred ninety acre maritime forest consisting of dune grasses, flowers, and shrubs; and

Whereas, fifty years ago, the area of land referred to as Sullivan’s Island maritime forest was underwater. As sediment became trapped by the Charleston jetties, the sand that would typically feed islands further south settled off of Sullivan’s Island, gradually accreting and forming a new habitat; and

Whereas, the maritime forest of Sullivan’s Island is a habitat for species of nesting sea turtles, butterflies, year‑round and migratory birds, rabbits, raccoons, foxes, and more than one hundred twenty‑five species of trees and other plants; and

Whereas, in addition to the increased diversity of flora and fauna, the maritime forest serves as a natural buffer against consequences of hurricanes and tropical storms as it stabilizes the shoreline by reducing erosion, slowing strong winds, and blocking storm surge; and

Whereas, after Hurricane Hugo ravaged the South Carolina coast and beyond in 1989, the Town of Sullivan’s Island had the foresight to preserve the natural barrier created by the maritime forest by placing the land into a deed‑restricted land trust to be owned by all residents of Sullivan’s Island; and

Whereas, currently, the maritime forest is not only home to a diverse community of plants and animals, but also a public walkway and the Sullivan’s Island Bird Banding Station; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is proud to recognize and honor the Town of Sullivan’s Island for its work in safeguarding and preserving the accreted land of the maritime forest and to encourage it to continue to protect this habitat for the enjoyment of residents and visitors for years 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, commend the Town of Sullivan’s Island for protecting and preserving the maritime forest of Sullivan’s Island and to support its efforts to continue to safeguard this valuable habitat.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mayor Patrick O’Neil.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑