**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE DARLINGTON RACEWAY FOR ANNOUNCING A SECOND NASCAR CUP SERIES RACE, THEREBY DOUBLING THE ECONOMIC IMPACT TO THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND HIGHLIGHTING THE RICH HISTORY OF THIS TREASURED ATTRACTION IN THE STATE, TO ACKNOWLEDGE NASCAR RACING AS AN INTEGRAL AND VITAL PART OF THE STATE AND ITS ECONOMY, AND TO RECOGNIZE THE WEEKS OF MAY 2ND THROUGH MAY 9TH, 2021, AND AUGUST 29TH THROUGH SEPTEMBER 5TH, 2021, AS “DARLINGTON RACEWAY WEEK” IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, Darlington Raceway opened on September 4, 1950, with the inaugural running of the Southern 500, the first stock car race on a paved track; and

Whereas, since 1950, Darlington Raceway has served as a cornerstone in the development of stock car racing, one of the fastest-growing and most popular spectator sports in the country; and

Whereas, Darlington Raceway is celebrating its seventy-second season of racing; and

Whereas, in addition to hosting its annual NASCAR Cup Series race during the week of August 29th, 2021, Darlington Raceway has announced a second NASCAR Cup Series race to be held during the week of May 2nd, 2021; and

Whereas, South Carolina lays claim to many of the legends of NASCAR racing, including Rex White, David Pearson, Bud Moore, James Hylton, Tiny Lund, and Cale Yarborough; and

Whereas, the State of South Carolina is rich in historical references to the sport of stock car racing, as evidenced by the Darlington Raceway Stock Car Museum and the National Motorsports Press Association Hall of Fame at Darlington Raceway, in addition to dirt raceways across the State of South Carolina that served as home to the fledgling sport of NASCAR racing in the 1950s; and

Whereas, each year, the NASCAR events at Darlington Raceway focus our nation’s attention and the attention of the world upon our great State as a sport and tourism destination; and

Whereas, with one race weekend, NASCAR racing’s annual economic impact on South Carolina is in excess of sixty-four million dollars, and with the announcement of a second race weekend, that economic impact will double, as NASCAR fans from across the country and around the world visit the State to attend racing events and vacation in communities throughout the State; and

Whereas, Darlington Raceway participates as a good corporate citizen at the local, regional, and state levels and is an active contributor, through numerous community and charitable efforts, in improvements benefiting 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 General Assembly, by this resolution, congratulate Darlington Raceway for announcing a second NASCAR Cup Series race, thereby doubling the economic impact to the State of South Carolina and highlighting the rich history of this treasured attraction in the State, acknowledge NASCAR racing as an integral and vital part of the State and its economy, and recognize the weeks of May 2nd through May 9th, 2021, and August 29th through September 5th, 2021, as “Darlington Raceway Week” in South Carolina.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to NASCAR and Darlington Raceway.

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