

By: Senator(s) Horhn

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 71

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING DON BARDEN, THE
2 FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN PERSON TO WHOLLY-OWN A NATIONAL CASINO
3 COMPANY.

4 WHEREAS, Don H. Barden is owner, Chairman and Chief Executive
5 Officer of Barden Companies, Inc., the Majestic Star Casino,
6 Waycor Development Company and Barden International, Inc., in
7 Namibia, Africa. Mr. Barden most recently acquired Fitzgeralds
8 Casino Hotel with properties in Las Vegas, Mississippi and
9 Colorado. These companies operate in the real estate development,
10 automotive sales, service and manufacturing and casino industries.
11 Mr. Barden's corporate headquarters is located in downtown
12 Detroit, Michigan; and

13 WHEREAS, Barden, who became the first African-American person
14 to wholly-own a national casino company with the acquisition, uses
15 an easygoing style to describe some of his plans for his downtown
16 Las Vegas property, which will become the national headquarters
17 for his company; and

18 WHEREAS, born in Detroit, Michigan, Mr. Barden is the ninth
19 of 13 siblings. He was educated in the public school system in
20 Inkster, Michigan, and attended Central State University in
21 Wilberforce, Ohio. Mr. Barden is married to Bella Marshall Barden
22 and resides in Detroit, Michigan; and

23 WHEREAS, with a business career that spans over 30 years, he
24 has guided the Barden Companies and its affiliates from revenues
25 of \$600,000.00 to over \$326 Million for the year 2001, making it
26 one of the largest African-American-owned businesses in the
27 country; and



28 WHEREAS, in Lorain, Ohio, Mr. Barden works with a number of
29 community organizations: the Lorain County Community Action
30 Agency, Federation of Human Resources, Junior Achievement,
31 Fraternal Order of Police, NAACP and the Lorain Chamber of
32 Commerce. He also organized a voter registration drive for
33 minorities in Lorain County; and

34 WHEREAS, also active in efforts to revitalize Detroit, Mr.
35 Barden took the lead in 1991 and 1992 by organizing a series of
36 Regional Economic Peace Summits designed to address problems of
37 crime, image and economic development. The summits drew
38 widespread support throughout the metropolitan region. Over 200
39 area leaders participated in these sessions, including chief
40 judges, county executives, mayors, city council members,
41 prosecutors, police officials, sheriffs, corrections personnel and
42 local business executives; and

43 WHEREAS, in December 2001, Mr. Barden purchased three
44 Fitzgeralds casinos located in Tunica, Mississippi; Black Hawk,
45 Colorado; and downtown Las Vegas, Nevada. With four casinos, Mr.
46 Barden is the country's first African-American to wholly-own a
47 national casino company; and

48 WHEREAS, Mr. Barden maintains a strong commitment to the
49 Detroit community and is active with a variety of civic and
50 business groups including Detroit Renaissance, Inc., Booker T.
51 Washington Business Association, Greater Detroit Regional Chamber,
52 Henry Ford Health Systems and the University of Michigan Business
53 School Visiting Committee Member; and

54 WHEREAS, Mr. Barden is strongly committed to quality
55 education and his efforts in this have been recognized. He
56 received the United Negro College Fund's "1991 Education Image
57 Award" and Honorary Doctorate degrees from Lewis College of
58 Business and Marygrove College; and

59 WHEREAS, on July 10, 1997, Mr. Barden was selected and
60 received the Fannie Lou Hamer "Keep The Spirit Moving" Award, as a



61 result of his unique commitment not only to Detroit, but to the
62 nation, and even internationally in Southwest Africa; and

63 WHEREAS, Mr. Barden will be honored at ceremonies on April
64 18, 2002, at Fitzgeralds Tunica which has 1,152 employees, a
65 507-room hotel, three restaurants, 1,400 slot machines, 33 table
66 games and an events center; and

67 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the
68 remarkable and inspirational achievements of this businessman
69 whose dedication to community service is a matter of record:

70 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
71 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Don
72 Barden, the first African-American person to wholly-own a national
73 casino company, for his most recent casino acquisition and welcome
74 him to Mississippi, extending to him the best wishes of the
75 Mississippi Legislature on his future business and civic
76 endeavors.

77 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
78 presented to Mr. Barden at ceremonies honoring him on April 18,
79 2002, and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

