

By: Senator(s) Robertson, Browning, Butler,
Carmichael, Dearing, Frazier, Gollott,
Jackson (11th), King, Kirby, Mettetal,
Moffatt, Morgan, Nunnelee, Pickering, Posey,
Thames, Thomas, White, Little, Harden

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 582

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE CAREER, LEADERSHIP AND
2 HUMANITARIAN CONTRIBUTIONS OF HOBSON WAITS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE
3 OFFICER OF ELECTRIC POWER ASSOCIATIONS OF MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, Hobson Waits retired as Executive Vice President/CEO
5 of the Electric Power Associations of Mississippi (statewide) in
6 January 2006. Hobson has worked for the associations for 36 years
7 and has held his current position for the past 23 years; and

8 WHEREAS, in 1969, he joined the EPAs as Director of Public,
9 Member and Employee Relations. He became Assistant Manager in
10 1981 and a year later the board named Waits Executive Vice
11 President/CEO. During this time, he began a long and
12 distinguished career representing Mississippi's 26 electric
13 cooperatives as their lead lobbyist at the state and national
14 level. Through hard work, dedication and honesty, he earned the
15 respect of all government leaders. Under his leadership, numerous
16 legislative bills of extreme value to electric power associations
17 have passed in Mississippi. He is a well-recognized champion for
18 electric cooperatives and is often called upon to provide
19 testimony, and make presentations and recommendations on behalf of
20 the industry. He is a trusted friend of government leaders; and

21 WHEREAS, he was instrumental in the development of statewide
22 training programs for co-op directors, management and employees.
23 As a spokesperson, he has been recognized for excellent
24 communication programs and possesses an unwavering commitment to
25 spreading the cooperative message to all people; and

26 WHEREAS, upon taking the leadership reins in 1983, Hobson has
27 successfully guided the EPAs and, today, it is recognized as one

28 of the leading associations in the state. During his tenure, his
29 unique leadership abilities have united all 26 Mississippi
30 Electric Power Associations into statewide membership. His
31 innovative management style has led to the development of numerous
32 new programs and services to meet the diversified needs of
33 Mississippi's electric cooperatives; and

34 WHEREAS, more recently, Waits supervised the statewide
35 association's response to widespread power outages after Hurricane
36 Katrina. Members of his staff coordinated emergency work crews
37 from 22 states who assisted electric power associations in the
38 unprecedented effort to restore power to around 500,000 electric
39 meters. The response followed a detailed statewide emergency work
40 plan developed through the years with Waits' support. As a
41 result, power was restored within three weeks after the hurricane
42 to all meters capable of receiving it; and

43 WHEREAS, throughout his career, Hobson served as Chairman and
44 active member of numerous industry and community boards, including
45 the Mississippi Council of Cooperatives, the Mississippi Economic
46 Council and the Mississippi Rural Health Association. He is also
47 past President of RESMA and past Director of the Mississippi
48 Future Farmers of America. However, there is one area of
49 volunteer service that is very dear to Hobson, the 4-H youth
50 program. As a young 4-H member, Hobson learned the value of this
51 student organization and never forgot the important role it plays
52 in the development of young people. At present, he serves as
53 Chairman of the Mississippi 4-H Foundation and recently led a
54 successful campaign to build a 4-H Museum in Mississippi, the site
55 of the first 4-H chapter organized in America; and

56 WHEREAS, Hobson Waits, a native of Leland, Mississippi,
57 farmed in Washington County before graduating from the University
58 of Mississippi and earning a Master's Degree in School
59 Administration at Delta State University. He was a Teacher and
60 Coach at Inverness High School and Principal of Bankston

61 Elementary School in Greenwood. He and his wife, Mary Louise Wood
62 of Inverness, Mississippi, have two daughters and two
63 grandchildren; and

64 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the career
65 of this model Mississippi citizen who has provided strong
66 leadership to the Electric Power Associations of Mississippi and
67 laid a strong foundation for the future:

68 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
69 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
70 we do hereby commend the career, leadership and humanitarian
71 contributions of Hobson Waits, Executive Vice President and CEO of
72 the Electric Power Associations of Mississippi, upon the occasion
73 of his retirement, and we extend to him and his family the best
74 wishes of the Legislature in their future endeavors.

75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
76 Hobson Waits and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.