

By: Representatives Montgomery, Aldridge,
Franks, Gadd, Holland, Sullivan, Turner, Ward

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 108

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING PONTOTOC, UNION AND LEE
2 COUNTIES FOR HAVING THE VISION TO FORM THE PUL ALLIANCE AND
3 RECOGNIZING ITS CONTRIBUTIONS IN FACILITATING THE WELLSPRING SITE
4 FOR THE TOYOTA PLANT.

5 WHEREAS, in 2000, visionaries from the Northeast Mississippi
6 Counties of Pontotoc, Union and Lee formed the PUL Alliance in
7 response to the Advantage Mississippi legislation that was passed
8 by the Legislature in August 2000; and

9 WHEREAS, the coalition of these counties that began seven
10 years ago, helped to facilitate the 2007 deal with Toyota that
11 will result in a \$1.5 Billion investment and the creation of over
12 2,000 jobs by Toyota in Blue Springs; and

13 WHEREAS, the coalition worked together to have the
14 Legislature enhance the original Advantage Mississippi legislation
15 by revising it to allow neighboring counties to create
16 partnerships that share expenses and revenues related to an
17 economic development project, instead of limiting those expenses
18 to the city or county in which the project was located; and

19 WHEREAS, these counties again worked with the Legislature to
20 improve the Advantage Mississippi legislation to allow these new
21 partnerships to exist over multiple projects and not be limited to
22 a one time short term deal, and this change was critical to the
23 formation of the PUL Alliance which allowed them to plan as a
24 region and lay the foundation for the current Toyota project; and

25 WHEREAS, the PUL Alliance suffered a setback in 2003 when it
26 lost a Toyota Tundra plant to San Antonio, Texas, but used this
27 experience as a catalyst to improve the Wellspring site to better
28 fit Toyota's needs; and

29 WHEREAS, Toyota explained that two things were necessary to
30 improve the site: engineering information on the site and land
31 ownership control; and

32 WHEREAS, in 2003, important legislation known as the Rural
33 Impact Act was signed into law and helped the PUL Alliance to
34 obtain the engineering information needed by Toyota; and

35 WHEREAS, because of this legislation, in October of 2003,
36 Bill Renick, then Chief of Staff to former Governor Ronnie
37 Musgrove, awarded a \$250,000 grant to the PUL Alliance for a
38 preliminary site development engineering plan that enabled the PUL
39 Alliance to leverage the services of Tennessee Valley Authority
40 (TVA), and after consideration and review in January 2005, TVA
41 named the Wellspring site as the 3rd largest certified mega site
42 in the seven state TVA region; and

43 WHEREAS, with site certification, the PUL Alliance took the
44 Wellspring project to the Automotive World Congress in
45 Barcelona, Spain, and introduced the project to the automotive
46 industry; and

47 WHEREAS, because land ownership control was still needed, in
48 2006, the PUL Alliance sought legislation to create an
49 unprecedented partnership between local and state governments to
50 secure ownership of the Wellspring Project site; and

51 WHEREAS, in spite of the Mississippi House of
52 Representatives' foresight to pass legislation to create this
53 unprecedented new partnership, the legislation ultimately failed;
54 and

55 WHEREAS, despite the failed legislation, the tenacity and
56 vision of the boards of supervisors of these counties motivated
57 them to pass three resolutions allowing Three Rivers Planning and
58 Development District to begin purchasing over \$10 Million to gain
59 control of the land; and

60 WHEREAS, over the past seven years, many unprecedented
61 partnerships and collaborations were created as a result of the

62 vision of economic development by Pontotoc, Union and Lee
63 Counties, and the economic development and business leaders in
64 these counties for the citizens of Northeast Mississippi; and

65 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
66 the contributions of Mississippi counties which work together for
67 the good of the citizens of our state:

68 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
69 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
70 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend Pontotoc, Union and Lee (PUL)
71 Counties for having the vision to form the PUL Alliance and
72 recognize its contributions in facilitating the Wellspring site
73 for the Toyota plant.

74 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
75 furnished to members of the Boards of Supervisors for Pontotoc,
76 Union and Lee Counties and to the members of the Capitol Press
77 Corps.