

**Adopted
AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED TO**

House Concurrent Resolution No. 108

BY: Senator(s) Nunnelee

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

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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, with site certification, the PUL Alliance took the
36 Wellspring project to the Automotive World Congress in
37 Barcelona, Spain, and introduced the project to the automotive
38 industry; and

39 WHEREAS, because land ownership control was still needed, in
40 2006, the PUL Alliance sought legislation to create an
41 unprecedented partnership between local and state governments to
42 secure ownership of the Wellspring Project site; and

43 WHEREAS, the tenacity and vision of the boards of supervisors
44 of these counties motivated them to pass three resolutions
45 allowing Three Rivers Planning and Development District to begin
46 purchasing over \$10 Million to gain control of the land; and

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47 WHEREAS, over the past seven years, many unprecedented
48 partnerships and collaborations were created as a result of the
49 vision of economic development by Pontotoc, Union and Lee
50 Counties, and the economic development and business leaders in
51 these counties for the citizens of Northeast Mississippi; and

52 WHEREAS, the following public officials, public agencies,
53 foundations and partnerships were instrumental in facilitating
54 this project: Governor Haley Barbour; Lieutenant Governor Amy
55 Tuck; Speaker Billy McCoy; Toyota Motor Engineering; Toyota
56 Manufacturing North America; Mississippi Development Authority;
57 Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality; Mississippi
58 Department of Employment Security; Mississippi Department of
59 Transportation; University of Mississippi; State Board for
60 Community and Junior Colleges; Consortium of Northeast Mississippi
61 Community College; Northwest Mississippi; Community College,
62 Itawamba Community College; Pontotoc County Board of Supervisors;
63 Union County Board of Supervisors; Lee County Board of
64 Supervisors; Town of Blue Springs; PUL Alliance; Community
65 Development Foundation; Three Rivers Planning and Development
66 District; Tennessee Valley Authority; New Albany Light and Gas;
67 the Mississippi State Senate; and the Mississippi House of
68 Representatives; and

69 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the
70 contributions of Mississippi counties, agencies and officials who
71 worked together for the citizens of our state:

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

78 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
79 transmitted to members of the Boards of Supervisors for Pontotoc,
80 Union and Lee Counties and made available to the members of the
81 Capitol Press Corps.