

By: Senator(s) Horhn, Burton

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 504

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE CAREER AND
2 CONTRIBUTIONS OF WARD EMLING, THE LONGEST-SERVING NATIONAL AND
3 INTERNATIONAL FILM COMMISSIONER, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS
4 RETIREMENT AFTER 30 YEARS AS DIRECTOR OF THE MISSISSIPPI FILM
5 OFFICE.

6 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Film Office was established in 1973,
7 the second film commission in the world. Since that time,
8 hundreds of films, television projects, documentaries and
9 commercials have filmed in every corner and county of the state
10 and Mississippi has built a solid foundation in the film industry
11 by focusing on its greatest attributes: people, place and an
12 unparalleled storytelling heritage; and

13 WHEREAS, for 30 years Ward Emling has served as Director of
14 the Mississippi Film Office (1980-1983, 1990-2017). He is the
15 longest-serving Film Commissioner ever, anywhere in the world, and
16 is one of the longest-serving industrial developers in Mississippi
17 history; and

18 WHEREAS, Ward Emling was born in New Orleans and raised in
19 Jackson, Mississippi. He was educated in the Jackson Public



20 Schools and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from
21 Millsaps College. He then studied two years at the Guildhall
22 School of Music and Drama in London, England; and

23 WHEREAS, during Ward Emling's 30 years, film production
24 touched every county in Mississippi, creating opportunities for
25 tens of thousands of Mississippians and lifelong careers in the
26 film industry for hundreds. During those years, over 320 films
27 and documentaries, and countless commercials were produced in
28 Mississippi. The total production budgets for the film and
29 television projects were almost \$500 Million, with a financial
30 impact of well over \$1 Billion, and incalculable PR and community
31 development. Between 2012 and 2016, Mississippians working on
32 Mississippi films rose from just over \$600,000.00 to \$6.6 Million;
33 and

34 WHEREAS, Ward has guided in-state film productions, including
35 "Huck Finn," "A Time To Kill," "The Chamber," "Ghosts of
36 Mississippi," "My Dog Skip," "Cookie's Fortune," "O Brother, Where
37 Apart Thou?," "The Ponder Heart," "Big Bad Love," "Ballast," "The
38 Help," "Get On Up," and "Dixieland," in addition to many short
39 films, documentaries and commercials; and

40 WHEREAS, Ward is a two-term past President of the Association
41 of Film Commissioners International (AFCI), the 300-member
42 organization of film commissions from around the world, and the
43 recipient of the 2008 Arthur Lowe Crystal Vision Award for
44 Outstanding Service to the AFCI and recipient of the 2008 Arthur



45 Lowe Crystal Vision Award for Outstanding Service to the AFCl. He
46 has represented Mississippi film and culture around the world, on
47 four continents (North America, Asia, Australia and Europe); and

48 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize a
49 Mississippian who is a respected member of his profession and has
50 maintained a competitive business environment for filmmaking in
51 Mississippi:

52 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
53 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
54 we do hereby pay tribute to the career and contributions of Ward
55 Emling, the longest-serving National and International Film
56 Commissioner, upon the occasion of his retirement after 30 years
57 as Director of the Mississippi Film Office, and extend our best
58 wishes to Ward for future successes.

59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
60 Ward Emling, forwarded to the Executive Director of the
61 Mississippi Development Authority and the Governor, and made
62 available to the Capitol Press Corps.

