

By: Senator(s) Tollison, Dearing, Kirby,
Barnett, Blackmon, Blackwell, Blount,
Carmichael, Caughman, Clarke, Jackson (11th),
Jackson (15th), Jackson (32nd), Jordan,
Massey, McMahan, Parker, Seymour, Witherspoon

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 15

1 A RESOLUTION TO COMMEND SENATOR MICHAEL D. WATSON, JR., FOR
2 HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE IN THE MISSISSIPPI SENATE.

3 WHEREAS, Senator Michael D. Watson, Jr., has announced that
4 he will not be seeking reelection, and will be running for higher
5 office in the next election. He has represented Senate District
6 51 which is composed of portions of Jackson County. In Michael
7 Watson, the citizens of District 51 have had effective
8 representation from a dedicated public servant with professional
9 legal experience; and

10 WHEREAS, Senator Michael David Watson, Jr., was born on
11 December 22, 1977, in Pascagoula. Michael graduated from
12 Pascagoula High School and went on to earn a Bachelor of Business
13 Administration and a Juris Doctor from The University of
14 Mississippi, where he is a member of the Ole Miss Hall of Fame.
15 While at Ole Miss, Michael served as a Youth Minister on the
16 weekends at a church in his mother's hometown of Noxapater.
17 During the summer of 1999, he served as an Intern for then-United
18 States Senate Majority Leader, Trent Lott, where his desire to one



19 day serve the people of Mississippi as an elected official was
20 reignited; and

21 WHEREAS, from the day he was first elected to the Mississippi
22 State Senate in 2007 and throughout his 12-year legislative
23 career, Senator Watson has wasted no time making a significant
24 impact in several key areas of interest, including Immigration;
25 Education; Public Charter Schools: Consolidation of Mississippi's
26 152 school districts, development and expansion of Alternate Track
27 High School Diplomas, and Parental Choice in Public Education;
28 Insurance crisis on the Mississippi Gulf Coast; Pro-Life Issues;
29 Lower Taxes and Spending; and Individual Rights, preserving
30 Mississippians' religious liberties, private property rights and
31 our rights to hunt and fish in our beautiful state; and

32 WHEREAS, Senator Watson has served on the following
33 committees: Constitution, Chair; Drug Policy, Vice Chair;
34 Compilation, Revision and Publication; Finance; Forestry;
35 Investigate State Offices; Judiciary, Division B; Ports and Marine
36 Resources; and Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks; and

37 WHEREAS, Senator Watson recently returned to the legal field
38 and opened Watson Legal, PLLC, where he practices Business Law,
39 Construction Law, and Probate Law, among others. He is a member
40 of the National Rifle Association, American Council of Young
41 Political Leaders, the American Legislative Exchange Council, The
42 Mississippi Bar, the American Bar, the Ole Miss Alumni Association
43 and the Ole Miss Hall of Fame. He also spends many volunteer



44 hours supporting the local affiliates of the American Heart
45 Association and American Cancer Society; and

46 WHEREAS, Michael and his wife, Lauren, live in Hurley,
47 Mississippi, with their three daughters: Gracie Pierce, Annie and
48 Cora Elizabeth, and attend First Presbyterian Church in
49 Pascagoula, Mississippi; and

50 WHEREAS, Senator Watson's service has been marked by his
51 commitment to success and recognized leadership, sound judgment
52 and fairness. He has set the highest standard in all of his many
53 roles, as father, husband, lawyer, statesman, community leader,
54 and leader in the Mississippi Senate, and as a true friend:

55 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
56 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and recognize Senator
57 Michael Watson, whose outstanding service enriched everyone with
58 whom he was associated, and we wish Michael and his family much
59 success in his future endeavors.

60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
61 Senator Watson and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

