

1 HR300
2 176875-1
3 By Representatives Williams (P), Sanderford, Whorton (R),
4 Daniels, Patterson, Ball, McCutcheon and Hall
5 RFD:
6 First Read: 13-APR-16

2
3
4
5
6
7
8 COMMENDING UAH SCIENTIST DR. TYSON LITTENBERG AND
9 GRADUATE STUDENT JESSICA PAGE ON CONTRIBUTION TO WORLDWIDE
10 SCIENTIFIC FUND.
11

12 WHEREAS, for the first time, scientists have
13 observed ripples in the fabric of space-time called
14 gravitational waves, arriving at the Earth following a
15 cataclysmic event in a distant universe; and

16 WHEREAS, a research scientist and a graduate student
17 at The University of Alabama in Huntsville contributed to the
18 successful detection of the existence of gravitational waves;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, the discovery of gravitational waves was
21 the last missing confirmation of Albert Einstein's 1915
22 general theory of relativity-our most fundamental
23 understanding of how physics works in the universe and opens
24 an unprecedented new window onto the cosmos; and

25 WHEREAS, the predicted, but never observed,
26 gravitational waves were observed September 14, 2015, and
27 physicists have concluded that the waves were produced in the

1 final fraction of a second of the merger of two black holes to
2 produce a single, more massive spinning black hole; and

3 WHEREAS, UAH scientist Dr. Tyson Littenberg and UAH
4 student Jessica Page developed sophisticated computer
5 algorithms that combed through the data and extracted physical
6 information from the detection; and

7 WHEREAS, their research at UAH's Center for Space
8 Plasma and Aeronomic Research made a direct contribution to
9 prove the existence of gravitational waves; and

10 WHEREAS, the existence of gravitational waves has
11 worldwide implications for physics astrophysics, and
12 astronomy; now therefore,

13 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
14 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That Dr. Tyson Littenberg and Ms.
15 Jessica Page and The University of Alabama in Huntsville are
16 recognized and commended for this valuable contribution to a
17 worldwide scientific discovery and thus expanding knowledge in
18 the field of physics.