

1 HR740
2 120357-1
3 By Representatives Morrow, Taylor, Hammon, Dukes, Sanderford,
4 Letson, Hall, White, McDaniel, Irons, Black, Grantland,
5 Curtis, Robinson (J), Greeson, Williams (P), McCutcheon,
6 Hinshaw and Oden
7 RFD:
8 First Read: 25-MAR-10

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8 COMMENDING REPRESENTATIVE JEFF MCLAUGHLIN FOR
9 OUTSTANDING SERVICE AS CHAIR OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY CAUCUS OF
10 THE ALABAMA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

11
12 WHEREAS, it is with great appreciation and gratitude
13 that we extend congratulations to our friend and colleague,
14 Representative Jeff McLaughlin, for the tremendous progress
15 made by the Tennessee Valley Caucus of the House of
16 Representatives under his leadership as chair; and

17 WHEREAS, on March 31, 2005, recognizing the need for
18 a unified voice of advocacy for people and counties of
19 Alabama's Tennessee Valley region, Representative McLaughlin
20 convened the first meeting of the Caucus; this innovative
21 approach to addressing the common interests of the Tennessee
22 Valley bore fruit almost immediately, as the members of the
23 Caucus stood together in overseeing the passage of their first
24 two agenda items, Act 2005-176, the Marshall County Tennessee
25 River Protection Act and House Resolution 770, which urged
26 President George W. Bush to appoint an Alabamian to the new
27 Tennessee Valley Authority Board; and

1 WHEREAS, under Representative McLaughlin's
2 leadership, the Caucus continued to expand and promote its
3 agenda for the Tennessee Valley region; during the 2006
4 Regular Session, the Caucus successfully passed Tennessee
5 River Protection Acts for Colbert, Jackson, Lawrence,
6 Limestone, Madison, and Morgan Counties; the strength and
7 camaraderie of the Caucus was perhaps best evidenced in the
8 passage of Act 2006-655, which returned \$3 million to the
9 Valley in the form of TVA in-lieu-of-tax money; following the
10 elections of 2006, the Caucus renewed its commitment to
11 continued common service and officially recognized
12 Representative McLaughlin as its leader; and

13 WHEREAS, 2007 saw further expansion of the Caucus'
14 focus, as the members together passed House Bills 590, 715,
15 840, 841, 842, 924, 954, and Senate Bill 199, allocating the
16 funds recovered for the Valley under Act 2006-655; the passage
17 of Senate Bill 199 required the full unified efforts of the
18 Caucus in overriding a gubernatorial veto; the Caucus also
19 successfully fought to amend House Bill 830, to return offset
20 TVA funds to the counties of the Valley; it was in the 2007
21 Regular Session that the Caucus completed its Tennessee River
22 Protection Act agenda, as the act for Lauderdale County was
23 enacted into law; Representative McLaughlin and his fellow
24 members of the Caucus also organized a uniform Roads and
25 Bridges Priorities List and expanded their presence in the
26 community, visiting Redstone Arsenal and the Shoals together

1 to further inform themselves of the common needs of the
2 Valley; and

3 WHEREAS, during the 2008 Regular Session, the Caucus
4 again successfully shepherded legislation through the House to
5 allocate the recovered \$3 million in in-lieu-of-tax payments,
6 overriding four gubernatorial vetoes in the process, and made
7 measurable progress toward passage of legislation to recapture
8 5 per cent in TVA money for the Valley, as the bill received a
9 favorable report from the House County and Municipal
10 Government Committee; and

11 WHEREAS, in 2009, Representative McLaughlin and his
12 colleagues had the Tennessee River added to the Alabama Scenic
13 River Trail; the Caucus was successful in allocating the
14 recovered \$3 million in TVA in-lieu-of-tax money, again
15 requiring successful efforts to override the Governor's veto,
16 and passing House Bill 683, the 5 per cent TVA recapture bill,
17 which would correct a 31-year-long injustice in the allocation
18 of those payments, but were denied the opportunity to override
19 a gubernatorial veto of HB 683; and

20 WHEREAS, the Caucus opened the 2010 calendar year
21 with a prayer breakfast in Decatur; the 2010 Regular Session
22 already has been a singularly successful one for the Caucus,
23 as this year's version of the 5 per cent TVA recapture bill,
24 House Bill 44, has been passed by both houses of the
25 Legislature and the Caucus has successfully overridden a
26 gubernatorial veto of the legislation, which returns some \$6
27 million to the Tennessee Valley to address vital local needs

1 such as education, mental health, fire protection, law
2 enforcement, and improvements in infrastructure; and

3 WHEREAS, under the able leadership of Representative
4 McLaughlin, the Tennessee Valley Caucus has enjoyed five years
5 of success in promoting the interest of the people of the
6 Tennessee Valley region; while he eschews the title "Chair,"
7 preferring the term "water boy," there is no doubt among the
8 members of the Caucus and of the Legislature at large that
9 Representative McLaughlin has been the foremost advocate for
10 the Caucus and the Region; now therefore,

11 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
12 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That with appreciation and
13 gratitude we heartily commend Representative Jeff McLaughlin
14 for his outstanding leadership of and dedication to the
15 Tennessee Valley Caucus of the Alabama House of
16 Representatives and that, by copy of this resolution, we
17 extend our best wishes for his continued success.