

1 SJR5  
2 114649-1  
3 By Senator Denton  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 12-JAN-10

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8 DESIGNATING THE BRIDGE CROSSING THE TENNESSEE RIVER  
9 IN THE MUSCLE SHOALS AREA THE SINGING RIVER BRIDGE.

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11 WHEREAS, for a length of approximately 50 miles, the  
12 Tennessee River that traverses the Muscle Shoals area once  
13 consisted of shallow rapids; and

14 WHEREAS, the first inhabitants of the area were  
15 Native Americans, and a prominent legend told stories of a  
16 woman who lived in the river and protected the Native  
17 Americans, often singing songs to them; and

18 WHEREAS, the Yuchi people, who most anthropologists  
19 believe were the first people of language in North America,  
20 referred to the Tennessee River as nun-nuh-sae, which means  
21 "The River that Sings"; and before the dams were built,  
22 especially during periods of flooding, one could hear the  
23 river from the town of Florence; and

24 WHEREAS, the great dams have softened the sound, but  
25 if you go to a quiet place and listen you can still hear her

1 songs; as the legend says, you only have to listen; now  
2 therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
4 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we officially designate the  
5 bridge crossing the Tennessee River in the Muscle Shoals area,  
6 currently referred to as the Patton Island Bridge, the  
7 "Singing River Bridge," and request the appropriate officials  
8 to erect and maintain appropriate signs designating the bridge  
9 and recognizing the legends of the Native American people who  
10 were the first inhabitants of the area.