

House Resolution 1673

By: Representatives Davis of the 87th, Schofield of the 63rd, and Evans of the 89th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Jacqueline Echols, PhD; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Jacqueline Echols, PhD, has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to
3 environmental advocacy, community engagement, and environmental justice, contributing
4 significantly to the preservation and enhancement of environmental quality within the South
5 River Watershed and surrounding communities; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Dr. Echols has exhibited exceptional leadership and dedication as the Board
7 President of the South River Watershed Alliance, guiding the organization's efforts in
8 program development, grant writing, fundraising, and community advocacy to address
9 environmental issues threatening the South River and vulnerable communities therein; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Dr. Echols has been instrumental in the establishment of initiatives such as the
11 Beyond the Bridge kayak & canoe paddles and the South River Water Trail, fostering
12 community-based recreational use of the river and contributing to sustained water quality
13 improvements; and
- 14 WHEREAS, Dr. Echols' leadership in establishing the Water Quality Monitoring program
15 in partnership with Georgia State University has facilitated ongoing efforts to monitor and

16 address water quality issues in the City of Atlanta and south DeKalb County, ensuring timely
17 reporting and intervention to protect the health of the watershed; and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. Echols' advocacy efforts have led to significant discoveries and
19 interventions, including her pivotal role in uncovering deficiencies in the 2010 DeKalb
20 County federal consent decree and challenging actions detrimental to environmental quality
21 and justice, exemplifying her dedication to upholding environmental regulations and
22 standards; and

23 WHEREAS, Dr. Echols has been recognized for her outstanding contributions with
24 numerous awards, including the Park Pride Inspiration Award, CEO's Community Hero
25 Vanguard Award, GreenLaw Environmental Hero Award, Urban Conservationist of the
26 Year, and Champion of Conservation award, underscoring her impact and influence in the
27 field of environmental conservation and advocacy; and

28 WHEREAS, Dr. Echols' commitment to environmental justice and community empowerment
29 has been evident throughout her tenure, as demonstrated by her leadership roles in
30 organizations such as the Clean Streams Task Force and the Atlanta Tree Conservation
31 Commission, where she has tirelessly advocated for the protection of green spaces and
32 equitable access to environmental resources.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
34 the members of this body recognize and commend Jacqueline Echols, PhD, for her
35 exemplary leadership, advocacy, and dedication to environmental conservation, justice, and
36 community engagement within the South River Watershed and beyond.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
38 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
39 Jacqueline Echols, PhD.