

House Resolution 713

By: Representatives Schofield of the 60th, Scott of the 76th, Boddie of the 62nd, Nguyen of the 89th, Jackson of the 64th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Nathaniel Q. Smith Jr. and the Partnership for Southern
2 Equity; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Partnership for Southern Equity's mission is to advance policies and
4 institutional actions that promote racial equity and shared prosperity for all in metropolitan
5 Atlanta and the American South; and

6 WHEREAS, the Partnership for Southern Equity uses an intersectional approach to advance
7 racial equity through community organizing across issues of energy equity, economic
8 inclusion, equitable development, health equity, youth leadership, and fee-for-service
9 contracts through our social enterprise arm; and

10 WHEREAS, the unprecedented events of the past two years—the COVID-19 pandemic and
11 its devastating impact, primarily on low-income communities and communities of color; the
12 police murder of George Floyd and subsequent racial justice protests and movement
13 building; and the mounting climate crisis, marked by increasingly severe weather incidents
14 that overwhelmingly affect low-income communities and communities of color—have
15 brought the need for racial equity and shared prosperity into vivid focus for national, state,
16 and local governments; and

17 WHEREAS, the Partnership for Southern Equity's Founder and Chief Equity Officer
18 Nathaniel Q. Smith Jr. is a third-generation native of the City of Atlanta and a child of the
19 civil rights movement; and

20 WHEREAS, Nathaniel Q. Smith Jr.'s endeavors as a racial equity champion throughout the
21 American South, the United States of America, and around the world have earned him
22 numerous distinctions, including being named to the Grist 50 by *Grist Magazine* in 2018 and
23 the Atlanta 500 by *Atlanta Magazine* in 2019-2021, as well as being designated one of the
24 100 Most Influential Georgians by *Georgia Trend* magazine in 2018-2021; and

25 WHEREAS, the Partnership for Southern Equity is committed to anchoring our work in data
26 and providing access to communities by creating the South's first equity-mapping tool, the
27 Metro Atlanta Equity Atlas; and

28 WHEREAS, the Partnership for Southern Equity has co-authored numerous reports,
29 including: "Growing the Future: The Case for Economic Inclusion in Metropolitan Atlanta,"
30 "Opportunity Deferred: Race, Transportation, and the Future of Metropolitan Atlanta," and
31 "Employment Equity: Putting Georgia on the Path to Inclusive Prosperity"; and

32 WHEREAS, the Partnership for Southern Equity's work has been featured in various media
33 outlets, including the *U.S. News and World Report*, *Chronicle of Philanthropy*, *Nonprofit*
34 *Quarterly*, *NPR*, *The Hill*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*,
35 *Atlanta Voice*, and others; and

36 WHEREAS, the Partnership for Southern Equity led a coalition of diverse stakeholders to
37 support a \$13 million transit referendum that expanded the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid

38 Transit Authority (MARTA) into Clayton County—a new county for the first time in 45
39 years; and

40 WHEREAS, the Partnership for Southern Equity continues to support the racial equity
41 ecosystem during the COVID-19 pandemic through its regranting capacity and COVID-19
42 Rapid Relief Fund, which distributed more than \$400,000 to over 50 organizations across the
43 state; and

44 WHEREAS, the Partnership for Southern Equity has grown to more than 60 full-time
45 employees and consultants in ten years, and it continues to serve as a model for embodying
46 racial equity and shared prosperity in the workplace; and

47 WHEREAS, racial equity, which is defined as just and fair inclusion, continues to serve as
48 the growth model necessary for economic uplift for all communities in metropolitan Atlanta,
49 the State of Georgia, the American South, and the United States of America.

50 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
51 the members of this body recognize and commend Nathaniel Q. Smith Jr. and the Partnership
52 for Southern Equity as they advance policies and institutional actions that promote racial
53 equity.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
55 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to
56 Nathaniel Q. Smith Jr. and the Partnership for Southern Equity.