

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 146

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCKNIGHT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Michael J. Olivier on the occasion of his retirement from the Committee of 100 for Economic Development.

WHEREAS, Mr. Michael Olivier is a native of St. Mary Parish and has dedicated more than four decades of his life to service in the field of economic development, devoting most of his career to encouraging national and international companies to invest in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Olivier graduated from Centerville High School in 1968 and attended the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, where he received a bachelor's degree in 1972 and masters degree in 1974; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Olivier has been married to his wife, Penelope, for forty-five years, and they have two daughters, Emily Patterson and Mallory Olivier, and two grandchildren, Gray and Hayes; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Olivier has served with distinction as the chief executive officer of the Committee of 100 for Economic Development since 2009; he began his career in economic development as the executive director of the Lafayette Economic Development Authority and served as the head of the Harrison County Development Commission in Mississippi for eighteen years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Olivier returned to Louisiana to serve as the secretary of Louisiana Economic Development under Governor Kathleen Blanco from 2004 to 2008 and helped lead the state's business recovery effort following the devastation caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; in 2005, he led Louisiana Economic Development to achieve the International Organization for Standardization 9001 certification and the International

Economic Development Council Accredited Economic Development Organization designation, both firsts-in-the-nation for a state economic development agency; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Olivier was also named as "One of the Top 10 in the U.S. to Make a Difference in Economic Development" by *Southern Business and Development* magazine and his work led Louisiana to be named "State of the Year" for the first time by *Southern Business and Development* magazine; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Olivier was named the 2006 winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Economic Development by the International Economic Development Council; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Economic Development, during Mr. Olivier's tenure, was awarded by CORENET Global the 2007 Economic Development Leadership Award in Strategies and Innovation for the business recovery work accomplished after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Olivier has been a president of the Southern Economic Development Council and was a ten-year board member and officer of the American Economic Development Council; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Olivier was named "Mississippi's Economic Developer of the Year" in 1999 by *Business Week*; and in 2002, *Southern Business and Development* magazine named him one of the "Top 10 Economic Developers of the Decade"; he also won the American Economic Development Council's Distinguished Service Award in 1995, 1996 and 1997; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Olivier still serves on the Louisiana Board of International Commerce and the Restore Louisiana Task Force appointed by Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards; additionally, he was named the Eugene Schreiber Award Winner for 2019 by The World Trade Center of New Orleans in recognition of his many years of international economic development work; and

WHEREAS, under Mr. Olivier's leadership, the Committee of 100 for Economic Development worked with the Tax Foundation in 2015 to develop what has become one of the key frameworks for tax reform in Louisiana, and with the committee he helped lead a highly-successful and unique partnership with the Council for A Better Louisiana and the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana to create the nonpartisan RESET Louisiana

initiative to inform candidates for the legislature on issues critical to the future of Louisiana;
and

WHEREAS, his jovial personality, love of travel, pursuit of "foodie" adventures, and commitment to the betterment of Louisiana are known and appreciated by many and he is most deserving of the highest recognition for his service.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Michael J. Olivier on the occasion of his retirement from the Committee of 100 for Economic Development and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that he continue to prosper in all of his endeavors.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE