

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 911

By Jones

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate folk musician and singer-songwriter Allison Russell upon winning her first Grammy Award.

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of the members of this General Assembly to recognize those citizens whose devotion to craft and artistic integrity not only result in exceptional art but also inspire those throughout this State and beyond; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Allison Russell of Nashville, a folk musician and singer-songwriter who took home the Best American Roots Performance Grammy Award for her song "Eve Was Black" during the pre-telecast ceremony of the 66th Annual Grammy Awards; and

WHEREAS, a native of Montreal, Québec, Canada, Ms. Russell has amassed eight Grammy nominations over the past three years, with this year's award being her first win; in addition to her podium acceptance, she also performed on clarinet and supplied background vocals for Joni Mitchell's powerful performance of "Both Sides Now" during the televised ceremony; and

WHEREAS, Allison Russell has been playing in bands since the age of eighteen, developing her first serious venture in 2003 with a combo called Po' Girl, which specialized in jazzy, cosmopolitan singer-songwriter updating of old-time sensibilities; and

WHEREAS, eventually, she formed another partnership, in music and life, with fellow singer-songwriter J.T. Nero; the two were just a year into their band, Birds of Chicago, steeping folk-rock in the cadences and conviction of soul and gospel, when their daughter, Ida, arrived; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Russell is also widely known for her musical contributions as a member of Our Native Daughters, a group of banjo-playing Black women organized by acclaimed singer-songwriter and instrumentalist Rhiannon Giddens; with the group, she has helped excavate Black women's hidden histories; and

WHEREAS, Allison Russell is one of her generation's finest folk artists, and her sonic and cultural contributions will undoubtedly go on to inspire generations to come; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that we honor Ms. Russell on this auspicious occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate folk musician and singer-songwriter Allison Russell upon her first Grammy win, extending to her our best wishes for every continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.