

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 265

By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Great Smoky Mountains Association upon earning top honors from the Public Lands Alliance.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to specially recognize those outstanding organizations that are committed to sustaining the renewable natural resources of Tennessee in a manner that provides economic enrichment while preserving valuable resources and biodiversity; and

WHEREAS, one such dedicated organization is the Great Smoky Mountains Association, which recently earned top honors for projects unveiled during 2016; and

WHEREAS, presented annually by the Publics Lands Alliance (PLA), the awards honor individuals, organizations, publications, products, programs, and services that embody leading-edge achievements in the preservation of public lands and the enrichment of visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Public Lands Alliance is a nonprofit network of more than 120 member organizations that serve more than 500 public lands and contribute \$150 million annually to the preservation and visitor enhancement of those lands; and

WHEREAS, *Pictures for a Park*, a large-format book highlighting early photographers who helped persuade the public and Congress to create Great Smoky Mountains National Park, received PLA's prestigious Publication of the Year award; the award recognizes a book or other publication created in partnership by a nonprofit organization and a public land that embodies innovation in educating and interpreting public lands to its readers; and

WHEREAS, the Great Smoky Mountains Association's CD *On Top of Old Smoky: New Old-time Smoky Mountain Music* won top honors in the Innovative Product of the Year category;

the CD features performances by some of the most accomplished musicians in the folk, bluegrass, and Americana genres, including the legendary Dolly Parton; and

WHEREAS, the Southern Appalachian Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Map earned first place in the Outstanding Public Engagement category, which recognizes exemplary products, displays, programs, and services that advance meaningful and sustainable connections between individuals and America's public lands; and

WHEREAS, since its inception in 1953, the Great Smoky Mountains Association has donated more than \$36 million to support the ongoing educational, scientific, and preservation efforts of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly pause in their deliberations to honor this outstanding organization; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate the Great Smoky Mountains Association and its members upon earning top honors from the Public Lands Alliance, thank them for their dedicated and thorough understanding of our State's precious natural resources, and extend to them our best wishes for every continued success in making a positive impact on the forestland and wildlife habitat across Tennessee for years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.