

1 HR726
2 120535-1
3 By Representatives Morrow, Taylor, Hammon, Dukes, Sanderford,
4 Hall, McLaughlin, White, McDaniel, Irons, Black, Grantland,
5 Curtis, Robinson (J), Greeson, Williams (P), McCutcheon,
6 Hinshaw and Oden
7 RFD:
8 First Read: 25-MAR-10

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8 COMMENDING REPRESENTATIVE JODY LETSON FOR
9 OUTSTANDING SERVICE AS A MEMBER OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY CAUCUS
10 OF THE ALABAMA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.
11

12 WHEREAS, it is with great appreciation and gratitude
13 that we extend congratulations to our friend and colleague,
14 Representative Jody Letson, for the tremendous progress made
15 by the Tennessee Valley Caucus of the House of
16 Representatives; and

17 WHEREAS, formed on March 31, 2005, the Caucus has
18 enjoyed five years of outstanding achievement as the first
19 truly unified voice for the interests of the people and
20 counties of the Tennessee Valley region in the Alabama
21 Legislature; and

22 WHEREAS, on March 31, 2005, recognizing the need for
23 a unified voice of advocacy for people and counties of
24 Alabama's Tennessee Valley region, the members of the Caucus
25 convened their first meeting; this innovative approach to
26 addressing the common interests of the Tennessee Valley bore
27 fruit almost immediately, as the members of the Caucus stood

1 together in overseeing the passage of their first two agenda
2 items, Act 2005-176, the Marshall County Tennessee River
3 Protection Act and House Resolution 770, which urged President
4 George W. Bush to appoint an Alabamian to the new Tennessee
5 Valley Authority Board; and

6 WHEREAS, Representative Letson and the Caucus
7 continued to expand and promote its agenda for the Tennessee
8 Valley region; during the 2006 Regular Session, the Caucus
9 successfully passed Tennessee River Protection Acts for
10 Colbert, Jackson, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, and Morgan
11 Counties; the strength and camaraderie of the Caucus was
12 perhaps best evidenced in the passage of Act 2006-655, which
13 returned \$3 million to the Valley in the form of TVA
14 in-lieu-of-tax money; and

15 WHEREAS, 2007 saw further expansion of the Caucus'
16 focus, as the members together passed House Bills 590, 715,
17 840, 841, 842, 924, 954, and Senate Bill 199, allocating the
18 funds recovered for the Valley under Act 2006-655; the passage
19 of Senate Bill 199 required the full unified efforts of the
20 Caucus in overriding a gubernatorial veto; the Caucus also
21 successfully fought to amend House Bill 830, to return offset
22 TVA funds to the counties of the Valley; it was in the 2007
23 Regular Session that the Caucus completed its Tennessee River
24 Protection Act agenda, as the act for Lauderdale County was
25 enacted into law; Representative Letson and his fellow members
26 of the Caucus also organized a uniform Roads and Bridges
27 Priorities List and expanded their presence in the community,

1 visiting Redstone Arsenal and the Shoals together to further
2 inform themselves of the common needs of the Valley; and

3 WHEREAS, during the 2008 Regular Session, the Caucus
4 again successfully shepherded legislation through the House to
5 allocate the recovered \$3 million in in-lieu-of-tax payments,
6 overriding four gubernatorial vetoes in the process, and made
7 measurable progress toward passage of legislation to recapture
8 5 per cent in TVA money for the Valley, as the bill received a
9 favorable report from the House County and Municipal
10 Government Committee; and

11 WHEREAS, in 2009, Representative Letson and his
12 colleagues had the Tennessee River added to the Alabama Scenic
13 River Trail; the Caucus was successful in allocating the
14 recovered \$3 million in TVA in-lieu-of-tax money, again
15 requiring successful efforts to override the Governor's veto,
16 and passing House Bill 683, the 5 per cent TVA recapture bill,
17 which would correct a 31-year-long injustice in the allocation
18 of those payments, but were denied the opportunity to override
19 a gubernatorial veto of HB 683; and

20 WHEREAS, the Caucus opened the 2010 calendar year
21 with a prayer breakfast in Decatur; the 2010 Regular Session
22 already has been a singularly successful one for the Caucus,
23 as this year's version of the 5 per cent TVA recapture bill,
24 House Bill 44, has been passed by both houses of the
25 Legislature and the Caucus has successfully overridden a
26 gubernatorial veto of the legislation, which returns some \$6
27 million to the Tennessee Valley to address vital local needs

1 such as education, mental health, fire protection, law
2 enforcement, and improvements in infrastructure; and

3 WHEREAS, Representative Letson's leadership and
4 dedication have proven invaluable to the efforts of the
5 Caucus, which, in just five short years, has achieved goals
6 that had been previously considered unattainable by
7 Legislators acting individually, rather than as a collective
8 force for the promotion of the interests of the Tennessee
9 Valley; now therefore,

10 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
11 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we heartily commend
12 Representative Jody Letson for his outstanding service as a
13 member of the Tennessee Valley Caucus of the Alabama House of
14 Representatives and that, by copy of this resolution, we
15 extend our sincere best wishes for every future success.