

SJR115 INTRODUCED



1 SJR115

2 ZQLEPKR-1

3 By Senators Chambliss, Albritton, Allen, Barfoot, Beasley,
4 Bell, Butler, Carnley, Chesteen, Coleman, Coleman-Madison,
5 Elliott, Figures, Givhan, Gudger, Hatcher, Hovey, Jones,
6 Kelley, Kitchens, Livingston, Melson, Orr, Price, Roberts,
7 Sessions, Shelnut, Singleton, Smitherman, Stewart, Stutts,
8 Waggoner, Weaver, Williams, Woods

9 RFD:

10 First Read: 07-Apr-26



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SJR___ COMMENDING JOHN R. COOPER FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO THE STATE OF ALABAMA.

WHEREAS, John R. Cooper has served with distinction as Director of the Alabama Department of Transportation, providing stable and effective leadership for a period unmatched in Alabama's history; and

WHEREAS, John R. Cooper is the Department's longest-serving Transportation Director in total and in consecutive years; and

WHEREAS, John R. Cooper began his tenure with the Department in January 2011; and

WHEREAS, John R. Cooper was honored in February 2026 by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials as the longest currently tenured chief executive officer of any state transportation department in the United States; and

WHEREAS, during the first 100 years of the Alabama Department of Transportation, the average consecutive tenure of a director was just over three years, making the continuity provided by John R. Cooper's service exceptional and historically significant; and

WHEREAS, under Governor Robert Bentley, John R. Cooper guided development of the Alabama Transportation Improvement and Rehabilitation Program (ATRIP), accelerating



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29 road and bridge improvements statewide; and

30 WHEREAS, upon assuming office in 2017, Governor Kay
31 Ivey retained John R. Cooper as Transportation Director,
32 reflecting confidence in his leadership and the value of
33 continuity; and

34 WHEREAS, John R. Cooper played a central role in the
35 enactment of the Rebuild Alabama Act to generate new state
36 revenues for transportation purposes; and

37 WHEREAS, his tenure included significant legislation,
38 including authorization for Design-Build project delivery,
39 enactment of legislation related to tolling, and statutory
40 improvements to the department's administrative operations;
41 and

42 WHEREAS, under his leadership, the Alabama Department
43 of Transportation delivered major projects, including
44 improvements to U.S. Highway 280, replacement of the
45 Interstate 59/20 bridges in downtown Birmingham, widening
46 the final stretch of U.S. Highway 431 in Eufaula, congestion
47 relief along Alabama Highway 59 through acquisition of the
48 Foley Beach Express toll bridge and construction of a new
49 bridge over the Intracoastal Waterway, widening portions of
50 Interstates 65, 10, and 565, and initiating construction of
51 the West Alabama Highway; and

52 WHEREAS, his vision, tenacity, and persistence have
53 helped develop the Mobile River Bridge and Bayway, making it
54 the most thoroughly developed mega-project in the United
55 States; and

56 WHEREAS, his leadership has helped advance the



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57 Birmingham Northern Beltline through the initial phases of
58 construction; and

59 WHEREAS, throughout his service, John R. Cooper has
60 demonstrated a strong commitment to public service, fiscal
61 responsibility, and the safety and mobility of Alabama's
62 citizens; now therefore,

63 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
64 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby commend John R.
65 Cooper for his exemplary and unprecedented service as
66 Transportation Director and express the gratitude of the
67 Legislature and the people of the State of Alabama for his
68 leadership and dedication.

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
70 resolution be provided to John R. Cooper as a formal
71 expression of the Legislature's respect and esteem.