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Calendar No. 212

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 53

Honoring and congratulating chambers of commerce for their efforts that contribute to the improvement of communities and the strengthening of local and regional economies.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 11, 2003

Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JULY 17, 2003

Reported by Mr. HATCH, without amendment

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Honoring and congratulating chambers of commerce for their efforts that contribute to the improvement of communities and the strengthening of local and regional economies.

Whereas chambers of commerce throughout the United States contribute to the improvement of their communities and the strengthening of their local and regional economies;

Whereas in the Detroit, Michigan area, the Detroit Regional Chamber, originally known as the Detroit Board of Com-

merce, typifies the public-spirited contributions made by the chambers of commerce;

Whereas, on June 30, 1903, the Detroit Board of Commerce was formally organized with 253 charter members;

Whereas the Detroit Board of Commerce played a prominent role in the formation of the United States Chamber of Commerce;

Whereas the Detroit Board of Commerce participated in the Good Roads for Michigan campaign in 1910 and 1911, helping to gain voter approved of a $2,000,000 bond proposal to improve the roads of Wayne County, Michigan;

Whereas, in 1925, the Safety Council of the Detroit Board of Commerce helped develop the first traffic lights in Detroit;

Whereas, in 1927, the Detroit Board of Commerce brought together all of the cities, villages, and townships in southeast Michigan to tentatively establish boundaries for a metropolitan district for Detroit, embracing all or parts of Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, and Washtenaw Counties at the request of the United States Census Bureau in advance of the 1930 census;

Whereas, in 1932, the Federal Home Loan Bank Board designated the Detroit Board of Commerce as the authorized agent for stock subscriptions in the Federal Home Loan Bank, as an early response to the Great Depression;

Whereas, in 1945, the Detroit Board of Commerce promoted the making of Victory Loans to veterans returning from service in the United States Armed Forces during World War II as a way of expressing thanks for the veterans' wartime service, and raised more than half of the total

amount contributed in Wayne County, Michigan, to fund Victory Loans;

Whereas, in 1969, the Detroit Board of Commerce, then known as the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce, was instrumental in the establishment of a bus network connecting inner-city workers and jobs, which resulted in the creation of the Southeast Metropolitan Transportation Authority, now known as SMART;

Whereas the Detroit Board of Commerce has been known by several names during its century of existence, eventually becoming known as the Detroit Regional Chamber in November 1997;

Whereas the Detroit Regional Chamber is the largest chamber of commerce in the United States and has been in existence for over 100 years;

Whereas more than 19,000 businesses across southeast Michigan have decided to make an initial investment in the Detroit Regional Chamber to help develop the region;

Whereas the Detroit Regional Chamber has supported the concept of regionalism in southeast Michigan, representing the concerns of business and the region as a whole;

Whereas the mission of the Detroit Regional Chamber is to help power the economy of southeastern Michigan;

Whereas the Detroit Regional Chamber successfully advocates public policy concerns on behalf of its members at the local, regional, State, and national levels;

Whereas the Detroit Regional Chamber has implemented programs promoting diversity in its work force and has won recognition for such efforts;

Whereas the Detroit Regional Chamber is committed to promoting the interests of its members in the global marketplace through economic development efforts; and

Whereas, on June 30, 2003, the Detroit Regional Chamber celebrates its 100th anniversary: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress honors and congratulates chambers of commerce for their efforts that contribute to the improvement of their communities and the strengthening of their local and regional economies.

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