

1 HJR24
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3 By Representative Morrow
4 RFD: Rules
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8 COMMENDING PAUL FINEBAUM FOR HIS MANY YEARS AS A
9 SPORTS ANALYST AND RECOGNIZING THE UNPARALLELED SUCCESS OF THE
10 PAUL FINEBAUM SHOW AND ITS PASSIONATE CALLERS.
11

12 WHEREAS, top-rated radio and television host, Paul
13 Finebaum, has made his name covering college football in
14 Alabama and the Southeastern Conference for over 30 years
15 while sparking controversy almost every step of the way; the
16 Paul Finebaum Show has become a staple for SEC football, and
17 the passionate and loyal callers to the show have cemented
18 their legacy in SEC football lore; and

19 WHEREAS, beginning with a sports-radio show based in
20 Birmingham, Alabama, Finebaum now hosts a national broadcast
21 five days each week on the ESPN Radio Network from Charlotte,
22 North Carolina; and

23 WHEREAS, known for his wit and appeal to listeners,
24 Finebaum graduated with a degree in political science from the
25 University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and developed a contrarian
26 style that rankles fans and draws in listeners from around the
27 United States; and

1 WHEREAS, serving first as a commenter on the Mark
2 and Brian Radio Show on WAPI-AM in Birmingham, Finebaum
3 launched his first sports call-in show, Fussing with Finebaum,
4 in 1984; during that same time, he was a sports commentator on
5 WBRC-TV, Channel 6 in Birmingham; and

6 WHEREAS, using relentless criticism, Finebaum
7 launched his career and expanded the listenership of sports
8 fans across the country; in 1995, he published his first joke
9 book jabbing at the University of Alabama, which was followed
10 by a series featuring almost 50 college football teams across
11 the nation; and

12 WHEREAS, while finding his voice, Finebaum has been
13 embroiled in defamation lawsuits and controversy, yet his
14 outspoken nature has continued to increase listeners, viewers,
15 and Finebaum's popularity with those who enjoy calling in to
16 the show; recognizing his unheralded influence in college
17 sports, the Wall Street Journal has rightfully dubbed him as
18 the ". . .Oprah Winfrey of college sports."; and

19 WHEREAS, Finebaum's weekly cast of colorful
20 characters and callers have enhanced the show's unique ability
21 to highlight how passionate Alabamians can be in supporting
22 their team; notable Alabama callers include: Tammy, Legend,
23 I-man, Jim from Tuscaloosa, Jim from Crestwood, DJ K-Dub,
24 Kevinator, Milo from Birmingham, Charles from Reeltown,
25 Phyllis from Mulga, Tyler from Huntsville, Joe from Red Bay,
26 and Shane from Centerpoint; and

1 WHEREAS, Paul Finebaum, the Paul Finebaum Show, and
2 all of the show's dedicated callers are truly deserving of
3 special recognition for their unique style, service, and
4 success in promoting the greatest conference in college sports
5 in the land; now therefore,

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
7 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we recognize and commend Paul
8 Finebaum for his successful career in sports journalism and
9 recognize the Paul Finebaum Show for its service to the
10 Southeastern Conference and college football programs across
11 the country, and by copy of this resolution, we extend our
12 admiration and appreciation, along with sincere best wishes in
13 all future endeavors.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we recognize the
15 numerous, loyal callers from Alabama that contribute to the
16 success of the Paul Finebaum Show, and by copy of this
17 resolution, we acknowledge their contributions to college
18 sports and entertainment in this state, and we offer our
19 sincere hope for many minutes of future airtime and spirited
20 debates with one another and with the ringmaster of the show,
21 Paul Finebaum.