

1 SJR57

2 117177-2

3 By Senators Barron, Beason, Bedford, Benefield, Bishop,
4 Brooks, Butler, Coleman, Denton, Dixon, Dunn, Erwin, Figures,
5 French, Glover, Holley, Keahey, Little (T), Little (Z), Marsh,
6 Means, Mitchell, Mitchem, Orr, Penn, Pittman, Poole, Preuitt,
7 Ross, Sanders, Sanford, Singleton, Smith, Smitherman, and
8 Waggoner

9 RFD:

10 First Read: 11-FEB-10

8 COMMENDING THE HONORABLE JOHN M. BAKER FOR
9 OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT.

10
11 WHEREAS, the Honorable John M. Baker, a former
12 member of the Alabama Senate, has announced his intention to
13 retire as Assistant Vice President - Government Relations for
14 Norfolk Southern Railroad, where he has served with
15 distinction for 26 years; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Baker, a graduate of The University of
17 Alabama and The University of Alabama School of Law, had a
18 distinguished career in the practice of law for seventeen
19 years in the Cities of Rainsville and Ft. Payne; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Baker, who was introduced to politics
21 by his father, Excell Baker, a former member of the Alabama
22 House of Representatives, was elected to the House of
23 Representatives himself in 1970; he served in the House until
24 his 1973 election to the Alabama Senate, where he served until
25 1978; during his tenure in the Senate, Mr. Baker was
26 recognized by the Capitol Press Corps as its Outstanding
27 Freshman Senator and its Hardest Working Senator; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Baker's interest in politics was not
2 limited to service in the Legislature; he served as Chairman
3 of the Alabama Democratic Party from 1985 to 1990 and remains
4 an avid follower of and participant in politics at all levels;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Baker is a member of numerous
7 professional and civic organizations; he is an active member
8 of the Alabama Railway Association, and has served on the
9 esteemed Montgomery Committee of 100, the Board of Directors
10 of the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce, and the Hole in the
11 Wall Club; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Baker is an avid outdoorsman and an
13 accomplished hunter and fisherman; he is a great lover of
14 horses and of boating; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Baker, a member of the First Baptist
16 Church of Montgomery, is a devoted husband, father, and
17 grandfather; he is beloved to his wife Regina; his daughters,
18 Gina Baker Hantel, Ginger Baker Gary, and Julie Baker
19 McCormick; and to his seven grandchildren, Sarah, John,
20 Gaston, Gabby, Griffin, Troy, and Lydia; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Baker has lived an exceptional life,
22 marked by professional, political, and, above all, personal
23 success; his long, distinguished, and diverse career reflects
24 honor not just on him, but on all Alabamians; now therefore,

25 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
26 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we heartily congratulate our
27 friend, John M. Baker, on the occasion of his retirement as

1 Assistant Vice President - Government Relations for Norfolk
2 Southern Railroad and on his exemplary record of achievement;
3 by copy of this resolution, we offer him and his family our
4 sincerest good wishes in all future endeavors.