

1 HR742
2 120574-1
3 By Representatives Morrow, Taylor, Hammon, Dukes, Sanderford,
4 Letson, Hall, McLaughlin, White, McDaniel, Irons, Black,
5 Grantland, Curtis, Robinson (J), Greeson, Williams (P),
6 McCutcheon, Hinshaw and Oden
7 RFD:
8 First Read: 25-MAR-10

COMMENDING REPRESENTATIVE JAMES C. FIELDS, JR., FOR
OUTSTANDING SERVICE AS A MEMBER OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY CAUCUS
OF THE ALABAMA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, it is with great appreciation and gratitude
that we extend congratulations to our friend and colleague,
Representative James C. Fields, Jr., for the tremendous
progress made by the Tennessee Valley Caucus of the House of
Representatives; and

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

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2005, recognizing the need for
a unified voice of advocacy for people and counties of
Alabama's Tennessee Valley region, the members of the Caucus
convened their first meeting; this innovative approach to
addressing the common interests of the Tennessee Valley bore
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, the Caucus continued to expand and promote
7 its agenda for the Tennessee Valley region; during the 2006
8 Regular Session, the Caucus successfully passed Tennessee
9 River Protection Acts for Colbert, Jackson, Lawrence,
10 Limestone, Madison, and Morgan Counties; the strength and
11 camaraderie of the Caucus was perhaps best evidenced in the
12 passage of Act 2006-655, which returned \$3 million to the
13 Valley in the form of TVA in-lieu-of-tax money; and

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

1 to further inform themselves of the common needs of the
2 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 Fields 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 Fields' 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 James C. Fields, Jr., for his outstanding
13 service as a member of the Tennessee Valley Caucus of the
14 Alabama House of Representatives and that, by copy of this
15 resolution, we extend our sincere best wishes for every future
16 success.