

1 SJR57
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3 By Senator Waggoner
4 RFD:
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RECOGNIZING ALABAMA'S RETAIL SECTOR AND ITS CRITICAL
CONTRIBUTION TO ALABAMA'S ECONOMY.

WHEREAS, the men and women of Alabama's retail
sector, whose work and services rendered are second to none,
are at the very core of Alabama's prosperity; and

WHEREAS, sensible public policies have empowered
Alabama's retail sector to do what it does best: innovate,
create, and succeed; and

WHEREAS, Alabama retailers sell quality produce
grown in Alabama and the world-class goods made in Alabama, as
well as those produced and made throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, as Alabama recovers from an unprecedented
pandemic, our retail sector has been resilient, secure, and
strong; and

WHEREAS, Alabama retailers employ more than 400,000
of our fellow citizens, or one of every four employed in the
private sector, thus making Alabama retail the state's largest
employer; and

1 WHEREAS, retail, food, and beverage establishments
2 account for more than \$19 billion, or nine percent of
3 Alabama's gross domestic product, placing retail in the
4 state's top five highest-producing industries; and

5 WHEREAS, payroll at Alabama's retail, food, and
6 beverage establishments exceeds \$9.2 billion; and

7 WHEREAS, Alabama's retail sales, which exceed \$90
8 billion annually, account for 1.5 percent of all retail sales
9 nationally; and

10 WHEREAS, in 2020, Alabama retailers collected \$3
11 billion in sales tax that goes to fund education and essential
12 programs for the State of Alabama; and

13 WHEREAS, Alabama retailers also supply property
14 taxes to the State of Alabama, which funds essential programs;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Alabama retail has been an integral part of
17 ongoing efforts to defeat the coronavirus; and

18 WHEREAS, Alabama retailers and food industry
19 preserved, innovated, and completely reworked their business
20 plans to faithfully serve their customers, keep their
21 employees safe, and contribute to their communities during
22 these unprecedented times; and

23 WHEREAS, Alabama retail worked tirelessly through
24 storms, a pandemic, and natural disasters over the past year
25 to provide the services and products that its customers
26 needed; and

1 WHEREAS, Alabama retail made cloth masks, converted
2 breweries into hand sanitizer facilities, provided meals to
3 first responders and emergency personnel, and donated food and
4 essential supplies to nonprofits to help our fellow citizens
5 in need; now therefore,

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
7 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we commend the hardworking men
8 and women of Alabama's retail sector and support their
9 continued work and prosperity today for our state and for
10 Alabama's future generations; we urge our fellow citizens to
11 thank their local retailers for their steadfast service to
12 their customers.