Chapter No. 2224
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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 653

Originated in Senate [signature] Secretary

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 653

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION SENDING THE PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI TO THE PEOPLE OF JAPAN AND PLEDGING SUPPORT IN THE WAKE OF THE WIDESPREAD DESTRUCTION FROM THE 8.9/9.0-MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE AND RESULTING TSUNAMI.

WHEREAS, the most powerful earthquake to hit Japan in recorded history struck off the island nation's shore on Friday, March 11, 2011, collapsing buildings, touching off widespread fires and unleashing walls of water up to 30 feet high; and

WHEREAS, the waves swept across rice fields, engulfed towns, dragged houses onto highways, and tossed cars and boats like toys. It reached as far as six miles (10 kilometers) inland in Miyagi Prefecture on Japan's east coast. The estimated death toll from Japan's disasters climbed past 10,000 Sunday as authorities raced to combat the threat of multiple nuclear reactor meltdowns and hundreds of thousands of people struggled to find food and water. Prime Minister Naoto Kan of Japan said it was the nation's worst crisis since World War II; and

WHEREAS, the 8.9/9.0-magnitude earthquake prompted the U.S. National Weather Service to issue tsunami warnings for at least 50 countries and territories. The epicenter of the main quake was offshore of Miyagi Prefecture, about 230 miles (370 kilometers) from Tokyo, according to the U.S. Geological Survey; and

WHEREAS, Governor Barbour issued the following statement regarding the earthquake and tsunami in Japan: "Marsha and I send our prayers and sincere condolences to the people of Japan. The images we are seeing from this beautiful country are heart-wrenching. Mississippi shares a special relationship with

this great nation. Not only are we economic partners, but also the Japanese people were very kind to Mississippi as we worked to rebuild and recover after Hurricane Katrina. Having been through our own unprecedented natural disaster, I know Mississippians feel a special kinship with the Japanese as they deal with the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami"; and

WHEREAS, when Hurricane Katrina hit Mississippi in 2005, representatives from Kaetsu University in Japan sent a monetary gift expressing their sympathy for the storm-battered people of their partner university in Hattiesburg. Now the roles have been reversed, as Southern Miss residents cast a concerned eye west across the Pacific Ocean; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi has a large economic presence in Japan, and both Nissan North America, Inc., and the Toyota Motor Corporation have a large economic presence in Mississippi. More than 1,000 Mississippi firms export over $5 Billion in products to foreign destinations, including Japan, supporting more than 50,000 direct related jobs in the states. The Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) maintains a network of regional international offices to support the state's international marketing efforts and enhance the work of trade and investment programs. An important regional office is located in Yokohama, Japan, which is very near the epicenter of the earthquake/tsunami disaster; and

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi is naturally concerned about the welfare of the citizens of Japan during this emergency:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That we hereby join the President of the United States and the Governor of Mississippi in sending our sincere prayers and condolences to the people of Japan and pledge all humanitarian support possible in the wake of the widespread destruction from the 8.9/9.0-magnitude earthquake and resulting tsunami on March 11, 2011.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to Prime Minister Naoto Kan of Japan, the Managing Director of the State of Mississippi Asian Office of Investment Promotion in Yokohama, Japan, members of the Mississippi congressional delegation, and the Governor, and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

ADOPTED BY THE SENATE
March 18, 2011

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
March 23, 2011

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES