

Senate Resolution 883

By: Senator Orrock of the 36th

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Mr. Dennis Kelly; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Dennis Kelly has long been recognized for the vital role that he has played  
3 in leadership and his ground-breaking work for the Atlanta zoo; and

4 WHEREAS, an Atlanta native, Mr. Kelly earned a cum laude bachelor's degree in  
5 mechanical engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology and a master's degree from  
6 Harvard University where he interned at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government in  
7 Energy and Environmental Policy; and

8 WHEREAS, he served as a vice president of marketing with the Coca-Cola Company and  
9 president and CEO of Green Mountain Energy Company, a Texas based company that is the  
10 nation's leading marketer of cleaner electricity; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Kelly was named president and CEO of Zoo Atlanta in 2003, and under his  
12 leadership and guidance the zoo has grown in size and popularity to become a national  
13 family attraction; and

14 WHEREAS, during his tenure as president, Mr. Kelly has spearheaded a 25 year master plan,  
15 renegotiated a new giant panda agreement with China, instituted state of the art capital  
16 improvement projects, and created a fiscally sound zoological institution; and

17 WHEREAS, he has raised an astounding \$40 million in public and private funds on behalf  
18 of the zoo, and during his tenure as president, the zoo has seen a 50 percent increase in  
19 annual giving which will assist the zoo in maintaining its place in Atlanta for future  
20 generations to enjoy; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Kelly has greatly enhanced the zoo's scientific and animal welfare  
22 programs, improved visitor experience, rebuilt marketing efforts, and reinforced strong  
23 government relations; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Kelly has been named Director of Smithsonian's National Zoo in  
25 Washington, D.C., where he will oversee operations for a 163 acre facility in Rock Creek  
26 Park and a 3,200 acre Conservation and Research Center in Front Royal, Virginia; and

27 WHEREAS, his significant organizational and leadership talents, his remarkable patience  
28 and diplomacy, his keen sense of vision, and his sensitivity to the needs of zoo patrons and  
29 the wonderful animals it houses have earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues  
30 and associates; and his direction and guidance will be sorely missed by Zoo Atlanta.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
32 commend Mr. Dennis Kelly on his many accomplishments, recognize the great service he  
33 has given to Zoo Atlanta as its president, and extend to him sincere best wishes in his new  
34 position as Director of Smithsonian's National Zoo.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
36 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Dennis Kelly.