

House Resolution 886

By: Representatives Greene of the 151st, Ralston of the 7th, Cheokas of the 138th, Nix of the 69th, and Harrell of the 106th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Karin and Erik Vonk of Richland Distilling Company; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Karin and Erik Vonk have long been recognized for the vital role that they play
4 in the economic growth and development of rural Georgia; and

5 WHEREAS, the Vonk's Richland Distilling Company has established a glowing reputation
6 for both its excellent land stewardship and its award-winning spirits; and

7 WHEREAS, Richland Distilling Company's Richland Rum has been honored by *Forbes*
8 *Magazine* and *Robb Report* with the award of Best American Rum; and

9 WHEREAS, the distillery was recognized as the Flavor of Georgia winner in 2014 and
10 earned a Gold Sip Award the same year. Richland Distilling Company also won a Good
11 Food Award in 2016 and 2018 and a gold medal at the 2014 Craft Spirits Awards; and

12 WHEREAS, Richland Rum is now distributed in 16 states and 11 countries, most recently
13 breaking into the South African market; and

14 WHEREAS, with locations in Richland and Brunswick, Richland Distilling Company has
15 developed a well-earned reputation for growth and production as evidenced by its receipt of
16 the Georgia Manufacturer of the Year award in 2014 and 2015 and a Golden Globe for
17 excellence in exporting in 2017 and 2018; and

18 WHEREAS, the distillery was recognized in 2014 with a Rural Star Award as a
19 representation of entrepreneurial spirit in southwest Georgia and earned a certificate of
20 excellence from TripAdvisor in 2019; and

21 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
22 amazing corporate citizen and its founders be appropriately recognized.

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
24 the members of this body recognize and commend Karin and Erik Vonk of Richland
25 Distilling Company for their outstanding corporate citizenship and extend their most sincere
26 best wishes for continued success.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
28 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Karin
29 and Erik Vonk.