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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1054**

Offered February 20, 2017

*Commending the Food City 300 NASCAR Xfinity Series race at Bristol Motor Speedway.*

Patrons—O'Quinn, Kilgore and Pillion; Senator: Carrico

WHEREAS, 2017 marks the 35th anniversary of the Food City 300 NASCAR Xfinity Series race at Bristol Motor Speedway; and

WHEREAS, the Food City 300 NASCAR Xfinity Series race takes place each August under the lights at Bristol Motor Speedway, and it is considered the toughest Friday night fight on the NASCAR Xfinity Series race schedule; and

WHEREAS, then known as the Pet Dairy 150, the first NASCAR Xfinity Series race at Bristol Motor Speedway was held in 1982; and

WHEREAS, the NASCAR Xfinity Series race at Bristol Motor Speedway has increased in length several times over its 35-year history, first to 200 laps, then to 250 laps, and, since 2014, it has been 300 laps; and

WHEREAS, since 1992, the NASCAR Xfinity Series race at Bristol Motor Speedway has been sponsored by Food City, a chain of supermarkets in Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Georgia operated by K-VA-T Food Stores, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the Food City name has become synonymous with NASCAR racing in the region due to its sponsorship of two of the sport's most popular races, the Food City 500 and Food City 300 at Bristol Motor Speedway; and

WHEREAS, for 25 years, Food City and Bristol Motor Speedway have been effective partners that have prided themselves on bringing the best possible experience to race fans in the region; and

WHEREAS, the Food City 300 NASCAR Xfinity Series race has showcased the talents of many of NASCAR's future stars over its history, and given fans a thrilling, up-close view of some of the best short track racing in the sport; and

WHEREAS, the 2017 Food City 300 NASCAR Xfinity Series race will take place on August 18; the race is always held the night before the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Bass Pro Shops NRA Night Race at Bristol Motor Speedway; and

WHEREAS, Food City and Bristol Motor Speedway are respected pillars of the community and the Food City 300 NASCAR Xfinity Series race weekend is a hometown gathering and a highly anticipated highlight for the region each August; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Food City 300 NASCAR Xfinity Series race on celebrating its 35th anniversary at Bristol Motor Speedway; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Jerry Caldwell, executive vice president and general manager for Bristol Motor Speedway, and Steven C. Smith, president and CEO of Food City, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for their efforts to make the Bristol area a leading destination for NASCAR fans.

INTRODUCED

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