

## 2018 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 506

Offered March 5, 2018

*Commending the Virginia Highlands Small Business Development Center.*

Patrons—O'Quinn and Pillion; Senator: Carrico

WHEREAS, for 25 years, the Virginia Highlands Small Business Development Center has strengthened the Southwest Virginia economy by giving small business owners the tools, techniques, and support to achieve success; and

WHEREAS, established in 1993, the Virginia Highlands Small Business Development Center is one of 29 such centers in the Commonwealth, providing a wide array of technical assistance and education to existing small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Highlands Small Business Development Center offers business plan development, manufacturing assistance, financial packages, and procurement contracts, as well as specialized assistance for veteran-owned businesses, regulatory compliance, international trade, online sales, and market research; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the Virginia Highlands Small Business Development Center served more than 100 businesses in the City of Bristol and the Counties of Smyth and Washington, with services evenly divided between new and existing businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Highlands Small Business Development Center hosted several events throughout 2017, including conferences on cybersecurity and women in business, that attracted 350 attendees; and

WHEREAS, the many businesses that have received counseling, training, and services from the Virginia Highlands Small Business Development Center have in turn fostered local and regional economic growth through job creation and retention; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Virginia Highlands Small Business Development Center on the occasion of its 25th anniversary on April 1, 2018; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Virginia Highlands Small Business Development Center as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the center's work to support growth and economic development in Southwest Virginia.

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