

SENATE RESOLUTION

8688

By Senator Brown

1 WHEREAS, Kris Watkins is president and chief executive officer of
2 Visit TRI-CITIES, the nonprofit organization that markets Kennewick,
3 Pasco, Richland, and West Richland; and

4 WHEREAS, Kris Watkins was introduced to the Tri-Cities while
5 working in the field of professional relocation, and later learned
6 the importance of tourism as project manager for the canyon lakes
7 community in Kennewick; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1994 Kris Watkins assumed the position of president
9 and CEO for what was then known as the Tri-Cities Visitor and
10 Convention Bureau; and

11 WHEREAS, She was instrumental in establishing such Tri-Cities
12 community gathering places as the Three Rivers Convention Center, the
13 TRAC Center, the REACH Interpretive Center, and a twenty-three mile
14 continuous paved rivershore trail, and in boosting the Tri-Cities
15 economy through increased visitor spending and added tourism-related
16 jobs; and

17 WHEREAS, Kris Watkins was a key advocate for the 2003 state law
18 that allows for the creation of tourism promotion areas, and has
19 generated millions of dollars for communities across Washington; and

20 WHEREAS, Her record of leadership includes being a founding
21 member of the Washington State Tourism Commission, and serving on the
22 Washington Tourism Alliance Board of Directors, in addition to
23 working with the Tourism Promotion Program with the Port of Seattle,

1 the Washington State Destination Marketing Organizations Association,
2 and the AG Forestry Leadership Program; and

3 WHEREAS, Kris Watkins has not only earned the respect of her
4 peers over her twenty-plus years in the Tri-Cities but under her
5 leadership the Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau received the
6 2009 Governor's Smart Communities Award, and she was named the 2004
7 Washington State Tourism Professional of the Year award among other
8 honors; and

9 WHEREAS, The self-proclaimed "city girl turned Franklin County
10 farm wife" enjoys golf, traveling, and spending time with her
11 husband, Clark, a retired farmer, and their two children and
12 grandson;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate
14 honor Kris Watkins upon her retirement as a long time champion for
15 the Tri-Cities and for Washington, commend her dedication, leadership
16 and innovative spirit, and recognize her devotion to Kennewick,
17 Pasco, Richland, and West Richland.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
19 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to Kris
20 Watkins and to Visit TRI-CITIES.

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