



# *State of Tennessee*

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 670

**By Senator Dickerson**

**and**

**Representative Clemmons**

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend John Yunker, Tiffany King, and Dennis Georgatos of Skanska USA for their outstanding work on the renovation of the Cordell Hull Building.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding professionals who have devoted their careers to providing and producing exceptional work, distinguishing themselves as professionals of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, John Yunker, Tiffany King, Dennis Georgatos, and the hard-working employees of Skanska USA are such estimable individuals, committed to producing the highest quality of work while embodying the values that Tennesseans hold dear; and

WHEREAS, Skanska started out from modest beginnings, based in a small fishing village in southern Sweden more than 125 years ago. Today, it is one of the world's leading project development and construction companies. Skanska USA started in 1971 with one job, the 63rd Street Subway line in New York, and has grown to be the largest revenue generating unit of Skanska; and

WHEREAS, Skanska USA is one of the largest, most financially sound construction and development companies in the country, with expertise in construction, civil infrastructure, public-private partnerships, and commercial development initiatives in select U.S. markets; and

WHEREAS, with the company's reputation and proven expertise, it was an ideal candidate to take on the project of renovating the Cordell Hull Building in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, the history of the Cordell Hull Building begins with Chapter 129 of the Public Acts of 1951, which authorized the issuance of \$5 million in bonds, part of which was to be used for the construction of a state office building to meet the needs of a rapidly expanding Tennessee State government and State executive agencies during the post-war years; and

WHEREAS, the dedication ceremony and laying of the cornerstone for the new \$7.5 million state office building was held on December 5, 1952, with Governor Gordon Browning serving as the principal speaker. A leather-bound copy of the most recent issue of the Tennessee Blue Book was placed in a copper box and inserted into the cornerstone; and

WHEREAS, the building, which was designed by the firm Hart and McBryde, was constructed between 1952 and 1954; its stripped-down appearance reflects the influence of contemporary architecture, and the building remains one of the State's finest examples of Streamline Moderne civic architecture, a late iteration of the Art Deco architecture and design that became dominant after World War II and was based upon new technologies of construction, particularly the use of glass, steel, and reinforced concrete; and

WHEREAS, the true grandeur of the Cordell Hull Building exists in its interior—the entire building features floor-to-ceiling Tennessee marble, decorative and practical, in public areas and restrooms, some of which is a variety of black marble that no longer exists in the State; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, plans for demolishing the Cordell Hull Building were proposed; however, this plan was questioned and challenged by the local community and met with outcry by journalists, historical preservationists, the Metro Historical Commission, the Tennessee Preservation

Trust, Historic Nashville, Inc., the Tennessee Historical Commission, and the general public. A petition to save the building garnered more than 1,000 signatures, and several state representatives engaged the administration to request a second review of the building to determine viability; and

WHEREAS, that same year, the building was listed on the Tennessee Preservation Trust's Ten in Tennessee, which ranks the ten most endangered historic places in the State; it was also included on Historic Nashville's 2013 list of threatened historic properties; and

WHEREAS, a study conducted by Centric Architecture suggested that the cost incurred by the State would be greater if the Cordell Hull Building were demolished rather than refurbished, thus stalling demolition; in 2015, it was announced that the building would be renovated, a tunnel would be constructed to connect the building to the Capitol, and the General Assembly would move its scattered offices from Legislative Plaza, the War Memorial Building, and the Rachel Jackson Building into the renovated structure; and

WHEREAS, the 365,000-square-foot, eleven-story building, which is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, was completely demolished on the inside, several vertical support columns for the building were removed and replaced by horizontal support columns to create new legislative hearing rooms; and

WHEREAS, additionally, a 450-foot tunnel was dug under the Capitol to connect to Cordell Hull; this entailed months of daily dynamiting into solid rock, which then had to be removed. A new parking garage adjacent to the building was also constructed; and

WHEREAS, Senior Superintendent John Yunker, Project Manager Tiffany King, and Senior Vice President Dennis Georgatos worked tirelessly with the exceptional Cordell Hull Building team, which was composed of individuals from the Tennessee Department of General Services and the General Assembly, Lieutenant Governor Randy McNally, Lieutenant Governor Ron Ramsey, and Speaker Beth Harwell, to transform this important historic building into a modern structure that would facilitate the important work of the General Assembly and serve its needs beyond the next fifty years; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we recognize and commend John Yunker, Tiffany King, and Dennis Georgatos of Skanska USA for their outstanding work on the renovation of the Cordell Hull Building.

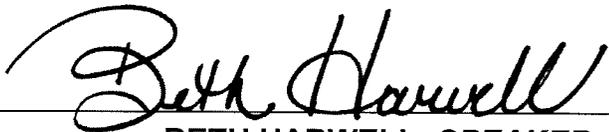
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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ADOPTED: April 4, 2018



RANDY McNALLY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April 2018



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR