

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 506

By Clemmons

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Renata Soto of Nashville on being named Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Council of La Raza.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Renata Soto of Nashville, who was recently named Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Council of La Raza, the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the first Central American and the first Tennessean to serve in this important leadership role, Ms. Soto, a native of Costa Rica, is the co-founder and executive director of Conexión Américas and has built a reputation as a fierce advocate for Latinos and their families and a valuable asset for the entire Nashville community; and

WHEREAS, under Ms. Soto's dynamic leadership, Conexión Américas promotes the social, economic, and civic integration of Hispanic families into the Tennessee community, drawing national recognition and acclaim that led to a visit by President Barack Obama in 2014 to host a town-hall meeting; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Soto played an integral role as Metro Nashville Public Schools joined in partnership with Conexión Américas to open a pre-kindergarten program, the Casa Azafrán Early Learning Center, at the Casa Azafrán Community Center. This new program not only helped ease long waiting lists, but also strengthened services for students from non-English-speaking backgrounds, who make up to a quarter of all Metro students; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Ms. Soto was named the 2013 Nashvillian of the Year by the *Nashville Scene*, selected as a Woman of Influence by the

*Nashville Business Journal* in 2008, and inducted into the YWCA Academy of Women of Achievement in 2012; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Soto is most grateful for the love and companionship she shares with her husband, Pete Wooten, and their two children, Gabriel and Camila; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud Ms. Soto for her dedication to her community and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Renata Soto upon being named Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Council of La Raza and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

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