

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1484

By Jones

A RESOLUTION to recognize the Volkswagen plant in Chattanooga, the first nonunion auto plant in the South to join the United Automobile Workers.

WHEREAS, workers at the Volkswagen plant in Chattanooga have voted overwhelmingly to join the United Auto Workers (UAW), making the facility the first nonunion auto plant in a Southern state to become unionized; and

WHEREAS, this victory comes after two prior defeats, in 2014 and 2019, for the UAW's attempt to organize at the Chattanooga plant, and it sets a new trajectory for labor unions in the American South, as similar efforts at several other auto manufacturing plants in the South have failed over the years; and

WHEREAS, the Chattanooga plant opened in 2011 and employs 5,500 people, of whom approximately 4,300 were eligible to vote in the union decision; and

WHEREAS, prior to this historic vote, which has been publicly commended by Volkswagen in Germany and President Joe Biden, the Chattanooga plant was the only Volkswagen plant in the world without worker representation; and

WHEREAS, nonunion auto workers typically earn significantly lower wages than those in UAW-represented plants, and collective bargaining could bring them substantial increases in pay, benefits, and job security; and

WHEREAS, this green flag to unionize in Chattanooga comes six months after the UAW won record wage gains and improved benefits in negotiations with the Detroit automakers; and

WHEREAS, workers at the Chattanooga plant, who help produce Volkswagen's Atlas SUV and the ID.4, will benefit greatly from new UAW contracts, which will provide healthcare

coverage that is almost entirely paid by the company, substantial profit-sharing bonuses, cost-of-living adjustments to insulate workers from inflation, and generous retirement programs; and

WHEREAS, it is our privilege to recognize the employees of the Volkswagen plant in Chattanooga on this landmark occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize the Volkswagen plant in Chattanooga, the first nonunion auto plant in the South to join the United Automobile Workers, commending plant employees on this tremendous victory.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.