

2026 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 184

BY SENATORS BOUDREAUX, BARROW, BARTHELEMY, CARTER, DUPLESSIS,
HARRIS, JACKSON-ANDREWS, JENKINS, LUNEAU, PRICE AND
SELDERS

COMMENDATIONS. Commends and congratulates the Honorable Foster L. Campbell Jr. on the occasion of fifty years of continuously holding elective office in Louisiana, first as state senator and currently as Public Service Commissioner.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend and congratulate the Honorable Foster L. Campbell Jr. on the occasion of fifty
3 years of continuous elective service to the state of Louisiana, first as a state senator
4 and currently as Public Service Commissioner.

5 WHEREAS, Foster L. Campbell Jr. was born on January 6, 1947, in Shreveport,
6 Louisiana, and raised in Bossier Parish, where he developed the deep connection to rural
7 communities that would shape his public career; and

8 WHEREAS, he graduated from Bossier High School, attended Louisiana State
9 University, and earned a bachelor's degree in business and economics from Northwestern
10 State University; and

11 WHEREAS, Foster was a proud member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity at both LSU
12 and Northwestern, forming lifelong bonds with many fraternity brothers who would later
13 serve alongside him in elected office; and

14 WHEREAS, before entering public office, he worked as a schoolteacher at Plain
15 Dealing High School and Haughton High School in Bossier Parish, while also selling
16 agricultural products to support his young family; and

17 WHEREAS, in 1975, at the age of twenty-eight, Foster qualified for the open seat
18 in Senate District 36; and

1 WHEREAS, he led a crowded field in the primary and then defeated former Speaker
2 of the House John Sidney Garrett in the runoff, becoming one of the youngest state senators
3 in Louisiana history; and

4 WHEREAS, he was sworn into office on May 10, 1976, beginning a distinguished
5 twenty-seven-year tenure representing Senate District 36; and

6 WHEREAS, during his Senate service, he tirelessly championed legislation
7 regulating rural electric cooperatives, resulting in lower utility rates for approximately one
8 million Louisiana residents; and

9 WHEREAS, he authored the legislation creating the Bossier Education Excellence
10 Fund (B.E.E.F.), a permanent trust fund supported by gaming revenue that has provided
11 millions of dollars for public education in Bossier Parish; and

12 WHEREAS, Foster authored Louisiana's "Do Not Call" law, establishing one of the
13 state's most significant consumer-protection measures and shielding residents from unwanted
14 telemarketing practices; and

15 WHEREAS, he also authored the legislation creating the "Save the Louisiana Black
16 Bear" license plate, raising funds and otherwise providing state support to programs resulting
17 in recovery of the Louisiana Black Bear populations and its removal from the federal
18 Endangered Species List; and

19 WHEREAS, though not a prolific bill filer, Foster authored impactful legislation
20 addressing issues such as railroad-crossing safety, regulation of payday lenders, recognition
21 of the Catahoula Cur as the state dog, restriction of billboards along rural portions of
22 Interstate Highway 49, establishment of Youth Hunting Days, and creation of the
23 Educational Excellence Fund from tobacco-settlement proceeds; and

24 WHEREAS, he is best known for his proposed oil and gas processing tax, which
25 Foster argued could provide sufficient revenue to allow elimination of the state income tax
26 while increasing funding for education and infrastructure; and

27 WHEREAS, Foster served multiple terms as chairman of the Senate Committee on
28 Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development, served multiple terms on the
29 Senate Committee on Finance, and chaired select committees on rural electric cooperatives
30 and consumer affairs, among others; and

1 WHEREAS, he was widely known for his unmatched oratory skills and his
2 memorable call to colleagues, "Come on home, y'all, it's supertime", as a nod to his friend,
3 Governor Jimmie Davis, before launching into stemwinders that featured stories from his
4 childhood selling watermelons, changing tires at his father's service station, or reflections
5 on how his controversial bills kept lobbyists employed and wealthy; and

6 WHEREAS, in 2002, after a hard-fought campaign against a popular eighteen-year
7 incumbent, Foster was elected to the Louisiana Public Service Commission, where he has
8 served for more than two decades, representing almost one million Louisianians across
9 twenty-four parishes in North Louisiana; and

10 WHEREAS, upon assuming the commissionership on January 1, 2003, he urged his
11 fellow commissioners to adopt long-overdue reforms, including holding meetings around
12 the state, prohibiting commissioners' relatives from representing regulated utilities, and
13 ending the practice of utility lobbyists providing free meals and gifts to commissioners and
14 staff; and

15 WHEREAS, after several years of heated debate, Foster convinced the commission
16 to abolish an anti-competitive and archaic nineteenth-century rule known as "public
17 convenience and necessity," which had allowed existing trucking companies to dictate the
18 terms under which potential competitors could haul regulated waste; and

19 WHEREAS, he fought valiantly on behalf of relatives of Louisiana inmates to reduce
20 the cost of prison telephone calls, which were among the highest in the United States; and

21 WHEREAS, Foster led the effort to bring telephone service to the remote community
22 of Mink, Louisiana, ending its inhabitants' decades of isolation and fulfilling his
23 commitment to rural infrastructure; and

24 WHEREAS, following Hurricane Katrina, by personally reaching out to the chairman
25 of the Federal Communications Commission, Foster secured thirty-nine million dollars in
26 federal funding to provide free cell phones to evacuees, ensuring displaced residents could
27 communicate with family, employers, and relief agencies; and

28 WHEREAS, he has consistently advocated for policies protecting vulnerable
29 residents, including measures to prevent utility disconnections during extreme weather and
30 to waive utility deposits for survivors of domestic violence; and

1 WHEREAS, throughout his fifty years in elected office, Foster has been recognized
2 for his steadfast advocacy for rural communities, his commitment to consumer fairness, his
3 plainspoken, and dedication to improving the quality of life for Louisiana citizens; and

4 WHEREAS, Foster's 1975 campaign slogan, "Works hard, talks straight, makes
5 sense", has continued to epitomize his life of public service; and

6 WHEREAS, he is an inductee of the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame and a recipient
7 of the Louisiana Democratic Party's Lifetime Achievement Award; and

8 WHEREAS, having been sworn in as a state senator during the nation's Bicentennial
9 year of 1976 and, due only to term limits, leaving the Public Service Commission at the end
10 of this Sesquicentennial year, Foster will have served in elected public office for a full
11 twenty percent of America's history; and

12 WHEREAS, it is entirely fitting and proper for the Senate of the Legislature of
13 Louisiana to honor one of its own, whose career reflects exceptional longevity, public
14 commitment, and unwavering service to the people of this state.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
16 does hereby commend and congratulate Foster L. Campbell Jr. on the occasion of fifty years
17 of continuous elective service to the state of Louisiana, first as state senator and currently
18 as Public Service Commissioner.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
20 former state senator and current public service commissioner, the Honorable Foster L.
21 Campbell Jr.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services.
The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof
or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

SR 184 Original

DIGEST
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Boudreaux

Commends Foster Campbell on the occasion of fifty years of continuous elective service to
the state of Louisiana, first as a state senator and currently as Public Service Commissioner.