

2026 SPECIAL SESSION I

INTRODUCED

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SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 2076
Offered June 22, 2026

Commending Smithfield Foods.

Patron—Jordan

WHEREAS, Smithfield Foods, an innovative leader in pork production, a crucial contributor to the local economy in Hampton Roads, and one of the top food processing companies in the Commonwealth and the United States, celebrates its 90th anniversary in 2026; and

WHEREAS, Smithfield Foods was established on September 16, 1936, by Joseph W. Luter, Sr., and Joseph W. Luter, Jr., as a small ham curing operation known as Smithfield Packing Company, the original location of which continues to serve as the company's headquarters; and

WHEREAS, in its early years, Smithfield Packing Company sourced hogs from nearby Suffolk and provided ham products to other local businesses, quickly developing a reputation for quality and flavor that endures to this day; and

WHEREAS, the Luter family continuously reinvested in Smithfield Packing Company, creating a strong operational backbone and a culture of excellence that allowed the company to grow amid the challenges of the Great Depression and World War II; and

WHEREAS, in 1946, Smithfield Packing Company opened a new, modern facility, which greatly expanded its production capacity by enabling harvesting, processing, and packaging under one roof; and

WHEREAS, after his father's unexpected passing in 1962, Joseph W. "Joe" Luter III became president of Smithfield Packing Company at the age of 26; he initially sold the company, which rebranded as Smithfield Foods in 1971, but he ultimately returned as president and chief executive officer in 1974; and

WHEREAS, over the next 32 years, Joe Luter III grew Smithfield Foods into a multi-billion dollar enterprise with operations throughout North America and Europe; he revolutionized the way pork is raised, processed, and marketed worldwide while earning the respect of his employees and peers in the industry for his determination, intelligence, and transformative leadership; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, Joe Luter III focused on vertical integration by expanding and acquiring several other businesses; his commitment to efficiency, modernization, and strategic growth laid the groundwork for Smithfield Foods to become a publicly traded company in 2025; and

WHEREAS, over the years, Smithfield Foods has employed generations of local residents and cultivated deep connections to the community through outreach and civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, the Smithfield Foods name has become synonymous with craftsmanship and quality, bringing pride and recognition to both the Smithfield community and the Commonwealth as a whole, and the company remains well poised to uphold its heritage and legacy in the years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate of Virginia, That Smithfield Foods hereby be commended on the occasion of its 90th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Smithfield Foods as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's admiration for the organization's role in the Commonwealth's vibrant economy and decades of leadership in the pork industry.

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