

1 State of Arkansas
2 85th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2005

HR 1014

4
5 By: Representatives Bright, Ragland, S. Prater
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8 HOUSE RESOLUTION

9 COMMENDING MR. JIM SHARKEY ON HIS MANY
10 CONTRIBUTIONS TO MAUMELLE, ARKANSAS, AND
11 RECOGNIZING HIM AS OUTSTANDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPER
12 OF ARKANSAS.
13

14 Subtitle

15 COMMENDING MR. JIM SHARKEY ON HIS MANY
16 CONTRIBUTIONS TO MAUMELLE, ARKANSAS, AND
17 RECOGNIZING HIM AS OUTSTANDING ECONOMIC
18 DEVELOPER OF ARKANSAS.
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21 WHEREAS, Mr. Sharkey was hired in 1996 as Director of Community and
22 Economic Development for the City of Maumelle, Arkansas, and was charged with
23 establishing a city department that would focus its attention on the future
24 growth of the uniquely planned community; and
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26 WHEREAS, Mr. Sharkey's mission is to facilitate the planned, orderly
27 growth of Maumelle through the creation of new jobs, ultimately expanding the
28 city's tax base; and
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30 WHEREAS, through Mr. Sharkey's endless dedication to development of
31 Maumelle, Arkansas, the city has become the second fastest-growing community
32 in Arkansas; and
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34 WHEREAS, Mr. Sharkey has significantly contributed to the creation of
35 more than one thousand (1,000) new manufacturing and distribution jobs; the
36 attraction of eight (8) new companies to Maumelle, Arkansas, including



1 Scholastic, Inc., and most recently Frostyaire and EZ-Spud; the expansion of
2 twelve (12) local manufacturing companies and distribution services; the
3 generation of more than one hundred twenty million dollars (\$120,000,000) in
4 new capital investment through the location and expansion of new business and
5 industry within the industrial park; the development of a facility for higher
6 education and training of local labor force work skills, managed by Pulaski
7 Technical College; the location of a major retail shopping center in the
8 heart of the city; the creation of a new community brochure, video, and web
9 page to market Maumelle's exceptional quality of life to new residents and to
10 prospective businesses seeking a new and profitable location; the location of
11 new apartment complexes in Maumelle, including one (1) complex for assisted
12 living that will be breaking ground soon, one (1) complex that will break
13 ground in two (2) months, and one (1) complex that is already open; numerous
14 openings and expansions of restaurants and other businesses in 2003 and 2004,
15 including Cheers, Beef O'Brady, Pizza for Less, Schickel's Cleaners, Movie
16 Gallery, PostNet, American Taekwondo, and Curves for Women; and the passage
17 of a one percent (1%) sales and use tax that will allow the Department of
18 Public Safety to become two (2) separate departments for fire and police; and
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20 WHEREAS, Mr. Sharkey was invaluable in attracting Scholastic, Inc., to
21 Maumelle, Arkansas, which created two hundred thirty-five (235) new jobs for
22 the area; Scholastic, Inc., occupies a five hundred thousand (500,000) square
23 foot building and within the next three (3) years will employ five hundred
24 (500) to seven hundred (700) employees; Scholastic, Inc., looked at several
25 sites throughout the United States before choosing Maumelle, Arkansas; and it
26 was through Mr. Sharkey's continuous efforts and cooperation that Scholastic,
27 Inc., chose Maumelle, Arkansas, for its center; and
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29 WHEREAS, one of Mr. Sharkey's most significant accomplishments resulted
30 in the City of Maumelle purchasing six hundred sixty (660) acres of land
31 adjacent to the industrial park; this land acquisition was master-planned and
32 developed as residential property with some area remaining for commercial and
33 industrial growth; it will also provide a corridor for a third entrance into
34 Maumelle, Arkansas, by connecting with Interstate 40; and
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36 WHEREAS, some of the six hundred sixty (660) acres has allowed city

1 government to grow as well; the city has constructed a two and a half million
2 dollar (\$2,500,000) diamond sports center for baseball and softball on this
3 property; the new complex is financed as part of a nine million two hundred
4 thousand dollar (\$9,200,000) bond issue passed by Maumelle, Arkansas,
5 residents to renovate and expand many of the present recreational facilities
6 within the community; and
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8 WHEREAS, Mr. Sharkey's department is involved in the attraction and
9 location of other businesses to Maumelle, Arkansas, as well as community
10 development projects; and the completion of these projects will improve the
11 educational opportunities in Maumelle, Arkansas, increase the city's borders
12 through well-planned annexations, and expand and enhance the city's
13 infrastructure and municipal services; and
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15 WHEREAS, Maumelle, Arkansas, is one of twenty-five (25) cities that is
16 an alumnus TeamCity Partner with Entergy's economic development department,
17 Teamwork Arkansas, and it is through Mr. Sharkey's tireless efforts and
18 dedication that the City of Maumelle has joined forces with Entergy to
19 provide Maumelle the best resources possible for the economic development of
20 the city; and
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22 WHEREAS, Mr. Sharkey is one of the incorporators of the recently
23 incorporated Maumelle Economic Development Corporation (MEDC); he has been
24 instrumental in all stages of the process, from the day when it was only a
25 dream to its present stage; and MEDC is a nonprofit group composed of
26 businesses, educational institutes, utilities, bands, local government, civic
27 groups, and individuals dedicated to the economic improvements of Maumelle,
28 Arkansas; and
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30 WHEREAS, evidence of Mr. Sharkey's success in the education arena can
31 be seen in the plans for a middle school in Maumelle, Arkansas; the
32 groundbreaking for the new Maumelle Middle School was held Friday, June 25,
33 2004, at 1000 Carnahan Drive; and Mr. Sharkey's hard work in promoting the
34 City of Maumelle is helping to make this dream become a reality; and
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36 WHEREAS, the Academics Plus Charter School offers further proof of Mr.

1 Sharkey's determination to see Maumelle, Arkansas, grow and prosper; the
2 school's contract has recently been renewed and includes the expansion of
3 four (4) more grades; Mr. Sharkey has worked faithfully with educators and
4 the community to encourage this growth in Maumelle, Arkansas; and he also
5 assisted the charter school in 2004 in joining with the Center for Toxicology
6 & Environmental Health in opening a lab in Maumelle, Arkansas, to be used by
7 students and the Center for Toxicology & Environmental Health; and

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9 WHEREAS, Mr. Sharkey has been involved with economic development from
10 early in his career; received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science
11 from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock; is a graduate of the Economic
12 Development Institute at the University of Oklahoma at Norman, the Institutes
13 for Organization Management under the United States Chamber of Commerce at
14 Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, and the Community Development
15 Institute (CDI), located at the University of Central Arkansas; he is a
16 Certified Community Development (CCD) member and administers the
17 certification examination for the Community Development Council; and is a CDI
18 sponsor who shares his experiences, knowledge, and passion for community
19 development with the students, including an educational tour of Maumelle,
20 Arkansas; and

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22 WHEREAS, the Arkansas Economic Developers Association was fortunate to
23 have Mr. Sharkey lead the organization as president in 2004; and

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25 WHEREAS, Mr. Sharkey is a member of the Arkansas Partnership; has
26 served on the Board of Directors of the Arkansas State Chamber of
27 Commerce/Associated Industries of Arkansas; is an active member of the
28 American Chamber of Commerce Executives Association, Central Arkansas
29 Economic Development Alliance, International Economic Development Council,
30 Southern Economic Development Council, Arkansas Chamber of Commerce
31 Executives Association, and the Urban Land Institute; is an honorary member
32 of the Maumelle Area Chamber of Commerce; has served as an advisor to the
33 Maumelle Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors since 1997; and under
34 his direction, the Maumelle Area Chamber of Commerce has seen its membership
35 double, a part-time executive director has been hired, and the chamber has
36 moved into new offices in Maumelle's new Riverstone Center; and

1
2 WHEREAS, Mr. Sharkey's professional career includes chamber management
3 positions in Camden, Arkansas; Greenwood, Mississippi; and Germantown,
4 Tennessee; and he has managed economic development programs for Prescott and
5 Nevada counties in Arkansas and the Department of Economic Development in
6 Arkansas; and
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8 WHEREAS, Mr. Sharkey's professional demeanor is a major contributor to
9 his success; he is extremely knowledgeable in the economic development arena
10 and is always willing to share his experiences and expertise with others; he
11 is the epitome of a team player and a valuable member of the City of
12 Maumelle's team; and he is driven by a desire to improve the city and state
13 with absolutely no regard for personal gain or recognition; and
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15 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives of the Eighty-fifth General
16 Assembly wishes to publicly commend Mr. Jim Sharkey on his many contributions
17 to Maumelle, Arkansas, and recognize him as Outstanding Economic Developer of
18 Arkansas,
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20 NOW THEREFORE,

21 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-FIFTH GENERAL
22 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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24 THAT the House of Representatives of the Eighty-fifth General Assembly
25 wishes to publicly commend Mr. Jim Sharkey on his many contributions to
26 Maumelle, Arkansas, and recognize him as Outstanding Economic Developer of
27 Arkansas.
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, an
30 appropriate copy shall be provided to Mr. Jim Sharkey by the Chief Clerk of
31 the House.
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