**PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS: The 11 county Middle Georgia region, of which Wilkinson County is a member, is rich in assets in innovation, education, industry, and manufacturing. Middle Georgia has a concentration of exciting Innovation Centers and partnerships, radiating around the Higher Education Institutions and State-of-the-Art Industries located throughout the region.

WHEREAS: The region outperforms in areas such as Human Capital and Knowledge Creation due to an impressive concentration of Higher Education Institutions that produce approximately 7,000 STEM degree graduates a year. Strong regional innovation ecosystems foster a strong entrepreneurial culture, a dynamic business environment, and a fertile place for a strong innovation workforce.

WHEREAS: The Middle Georgia region is fast becoming an emerging innovation hot spot, thus supporting the formation of the Middle Georgia Innovation Corridor. The Middle Georgia Innovation Corridor consists of an innovation community which brings together and connects elements of the Middle Georgia region into both a geographic and conceptual space. These elements include defense, manufacturing, industry, education, and healthcare. Collaboration across these elements within the innovation corridor will drive transformational activities which will deliver and attract world class talent and economic opportunity.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it proclaimed that Wilkinson County pledges its membership to the Middle Georgia Innovation Corridor. The county acknowledges the critical and fundamental importance of building out and supporting these forementioned technological assets and thus their contribution to the prosperity of our economy.

This \_\_\_\_ day of\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2023 By: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name

Title

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_