

1 SJR98
2 130247-1
3 By Senators Dial and Whatley
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 21-APR-11

2
3
4
5
6
7
8 URGING THE STATE OF GEORGIA TO INVEST IN
9 INFRASTRUCTURE AND IMPROVE CONSERVATION EFFORTS TO ADDRESS ITS
10 WATER SUPPLY NEEDS.
11

12 WHEREAS, the Coosa River, Tallapoosa River, and the
13 Chattahoochee River are of enormous economic and environmental
14 importance to the State of Alabama and its citizens; and

15 WHEREAS, the transfer of water out of any of these
16 river basins by an upstream state into another river basin
17 imposes costs on downstream communities by diminishing the
18 flow of water in the these rivers, particularly during periods
19 of drought; and

20 WHEREAS, the Atlanta metropolitan area in the State
21 of Georgia has failed to invest adequately in water supply
22 infrastructure for decades, but has instead relied in meeting
23 water supply needs upon use of storage in federal reservoirs
24 to which it has no legal entitlement to the detriment of
25 downstream communities, including communities located in
26 Alabama; and

1 WHEREAS, a United States District Court has ruled
2 that the illegal water supply usage by metropolitan Atlanta
3 communities of Lake Lanier in Georgia must stop in 2012; and

4 WHEREAS, a study performed by Atlanta area interests
5 after that district court ruling showed that water supply
6 needs of metropolitan Atlanta can be met in the future if
7 local interests make a sufficient investment in infrastructure
8 and undertake appropriate conservation measures; and

9 WHEREAS, the Georgia Senate and House of
10 Representatives recently passed a resolution urging a study of
11 the withdrawal, storage, and distribution of waters from
12 certain river basins to other parts of Georgia in need of
13 additional water supplies; and

14 WHEREAS, the resolution did not recognize or
15 consider the costs on downstream communities in Alabama and in
16 Florida of such a proposed transfer of water out of certain
17 river basins; now therefore,

18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
19 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we urge the State of Georgia
20 to recognize that meeting the water supply needs of the
21 Atlanta metropolitan area and other communities in Georgia
22 should be met through long overdue investment in
23 infrastructure and improvement of conservation in the river
24 basin in which those communities are located, rather than
25 through the contemplated transfer of water away from the river
26 basins listed in this resolution.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Governor of Alabama
2 and the Alabama Attorney General are urged to take whatever
3 action is necessary, including legal action, to prevent any
4 effort by the State of Georgia to divert water away from the
5 named basins to other parts of Georgia.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this
7 resolution shall be provided to the Governor of Alabama, the
8 Alabama Attorney General, and the Governor of Georgia as an
9 expression of our strong sentiments on this issue.