

House Resolution 1479

By: Representatives Petrea of the 166<sup>th</sup>, Gilliard of the 162<sup>nd</sup>, Stephens of the 164<sup>th</sup>, and Hitchens of the 161<sup>st</sup>

### A RESOLUTION

1 Advocating for the permanent protection of the site of The Weeping Time in Savannah,  
2 Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the largest sale of human beings in the history of the United States took place  
4 at a racetrack in Savannah, Georgia, on March 2 and 3, 1859, where 436 enslaved men,  
5 women, and children were sold in total; and

6 WHEREAS, these 436 enslaved people were auctioned to pay debts incurred in gambling  
7 and the financial crash of 1857 to 58; and

8 WHEREAS, torrential rain fell over the course of the two-day auction, leading to it being  
9 referred to as "The Weeping Time"; and

10 WHEREAS, the terrible sale, which occurred on the eve of the Civil War, was widely  
11 reported in newspapers all over the country and further deepened issues between north and  
12 south; and

13 WHEREAS, The Weeping Time property is located along Augusta Avenue in West  
14 Savannah and owned by the Savannah Housing Authority; and

15 WHEREAS, this site is still undeveloped and has great historical value to millions of African  
16 Americans who can trace their heritage to that event.

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
18 the members of this body support the historical preservation and protection of the site of The  
19 Weeping Time as well as any efforts to purchase the land and create a historical monument  
20 on the site.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
22 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the  
23 public and the press.