

House Resolution 686

By: Representatives Dreyer of the 59th, Clark of the 108th, Buckner of the 137th, Jones of the 167th, Kausche of the 50th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending and recognizing the coastal scientists of Georgia; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, over the past 50 years research from the University of Georgia Skidaway
3 Institute of Oceanography has deciphered the complex interactions of ocean systems off the
4 Georgia coast, which were previously unknown, leading to a new understanding of critical
5 ecosystems; and
- 6 WHEREAS, these scientists demonstrated the importance of the Gulf Stream in providing
7 nutrients that support all levels of Georgia's coastal and marine ecosystems; and
- 8 WHEREAS, more than 50 years ago research from the University of Georgia Zoology
9 Department and its Marine Institute on Sapelo Island proved to the leaders of Georgia and
10 to the world the value of the salt marshes, estuaries, and islands of the Georgia Coast; and
- 11 WHEREAS, these scientists demonstrated that the habitat of the marshes which was
12 considered by many to be "wasteland" was in fact a source of nutrients for some marine life
13 of the continental shelf along the Georgia Coastal; and
- 14 WHEREAS, the scientists came to understand the marshlands, estuaries, and islands of the
15 Georgia Coast were important for the protection of the mainland from storms that push ocean
16 waters into upland infrastructure and inhabited structures; and
- 17 WHEREAS, the scientists freely shared their discoveries with members of the General
18 Assembly, which nearly 50 years ago acted on the information and passed laws which have
19 for the last 50 years protected the marshes, estuaries, and coastal environment of Georgia;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, today Georgia's scientists continue to do careful research on the effects of
22 changing environmental conditions on the ocean and coastal realms, critical habitats, and the
23 defensive capacity of the Georgia Coast.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
25 the members of this body commend the scientists of the University of Georgia Skidaway
26 Institute of Oceanography, ocean researchers at the University of Georgia, Georgia Institute
27 of Technology, Georgia Southern University, and Savannah State University, the University
28 of Georgia Sea Grant and Marine Extension Service, and the Georgia Climate Project, led
29 by scientists at Emory University, for their continued scientific research on the present-day
30 threats to the natural environment of the Georgia Coast and urge these scientists to
31 communicate their findings to the members of the House of Representatives so this House
32 will be able to shape new laws that will protect the natural environment of the Georgia Coast
33 for the next 50 years.

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