

Senate Resolution 201

By: Senators Miller of the 49th, Gooch of the 51st, Dixon of the 45th, Ginn of the 47th and Hatchett of the 50th

ADOPTED SENATE

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending SK Innovation; and for other purposes.

- 2 WHEREAS, SK Innovation is investing \$2.58 billion to construct a two million square foot
3 manufacturing facility in the City of Commerce in Jackson County, which will employ 2,600
4 Georgia workers with high-wage jobs to manufacture electric vehicle (EV) batteries solely
5 for the United States market; and

- 6 WHEREAS, SK Innovation's commitment to produce EV batteries in Georgia helped secure
7 EV battery supply contracts with Volkswagen and Ford, including for the all-electric model
8 of Ford's flagship vehicle, the F-150 pickup truck; and

- 9 WHEREAS, SK Innovation's Georgia factory is essential for the United States to build a
10 competitive edge in EV battery production and supply chain, and it will be able to provide
11 EV batteries for more than 330,000 EVs a year, representing nearly a 25 percent increase in
12 United States EV battery manufacturing capacity; and

- 13 WHEREAS, SK Innovation plans to invest a total of \$5 billion by 2025 to expand the
14 facility, creating a total of 6,000 high-paying jobs; and

15 WHEREAS, the first SK Battery America plant is scheduled to begin initial operations in
16 2021 with mass production in 2022, and a second plant at the same site is expected to begin
17 mass production in 2023; and

18 WHEREAS, SK Battery America employees are learning battery technology through job
19 training programs partnered with local specialists such as Georgia Quick Start, an
20 internationally acclaimed economic development program that provides customized
21 workforce training at no cost to qualified businesses in Georgia and has trained more than
22 1.25 million workers through nearly 7,000 projects since 1967; and

23 WHEREAS, the new jobs that will be created in Jackson County include a range of technical
24 roles from production operators to senior engineers with a focus on manufacturing highly
25 sophisticated lithium-ion battery cells at scale; and

26 WHEREAS, Commissioner Pat Wilson of the Georgia Department of Economic
27 Development has stated that "the electric vehicle battery plant underway in Commerce will
28 put Georgia in the driver's seat for the next era of the auto industry and ensure our economy
29 keeps growing at a time when we need jobs most"; and

30 WHEREAS, Commerce Mayor Clark Hill stated that "this is a transformational economic
31 development project that will fuel new job opportunities for our region, spur more spending
32 across Jackson County, and establish Commerce as a center for innovation in a fast-growing
33 part of the economy"; and

34 WHEREAS, SK Innovation CEO Jun Kim stated, "We are working with a variety of partners
35 and local academic institutions to train and recruit new workers that will help us achieve a
36 competitive advantage in the EV industry, and we look forward to continuing to work

37 together with Georgia and Jackson County to establish a world-class center of excellence in
38 EV battery production"; and

39 WHEREAS, following the February 10, 2021, ruling by the United States International Trade
40 Commission (ITC), Governor Brian P. Kemp noted that "without presidential action, the
41 long-term prospects of SK Innovation's \$2.6 billion electric vehicle battery production
42 facility in Jackson County, Georgia, would be harmed significantly" and that "following the
43 ITC's order, there is a 60 day window for presidential review during which time the Biden
44 administration may overturn the findings that would affect SK, along with its customers,
45 Ford and Volkswagen"; and

46 WHEREAS, Governor Brian P. Kemp further noted that the ITC's ruling puts "SK's
47 significant investment in 2,600 clean energy jobs and innovative manufacturing in peril
48 during a pandemic that has created unprecedented challenges and hardship for countless
49 families here in Georgia and across the country"; and

50 WHEREAS, Governor Brian P. Kemp has urged President Joseph R. Biden Jr. to overturn
51 the ITC ruling, further stating, "I sincerely hope Georgia's congressional delegation will join
52 me in advocating for swift presidential action."

53 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
54 recognize and commend SK Innovation's long-term investment in Georgia and call upon LG
55 to work with SK Innovation to come to the table and negotiate in good faith to reach a
56 favorable settlement to address the intellectual property issue in order to protect the United
57 States' competitive edge in electric vehicle battery protection and supply chain and ensure
58 the success of the Jackson County factory and the associated jobs.

59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
60 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the President of the
61 United States and the United States Congressional Delegation from the State of Georgia.