

1 SJR117
2 131039-1
3 By Senators Holtzclaw, Scofield, McGill, Orr, and Sanford
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 05-MAY-11

2
3
4
5
6
7
8 RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL SOLAR OBSERVATORY.

9
10 WHEREAS, the National Solar Observatory is the
11 primary provider of key ground-based solar facilities in the
12 United States' solar community; and

13 WHEREAS, the National Solar Observatory's future
14 mission is to become a key provider for the data that will
15 improve the prediction of space weather; and

16 WHEREAS, the National Solar Observatory is managed
17 by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy
18 under the direction of the National Science Foundation, which
19 is offering a significant federal budget commitment of \$20
20 million annually; and

21 WHEREAS, the National Solar Observatory will be
22 relocating its operational headquarters in 2014 and the likely
23 site for the location of the National Solar Observatory is a
24 university campus; and

25 WHEREAS, The University of Alabama in Huntsville has
26 joined forces with NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center, the Von
27 Braun Center for Science and Innovation, the United States

1 Army's Aviation and Missile Research Development and
2 Engineering Center, Alabama A and M University, and SciQuest
3 Hands-On Science Center to submit proposals to locate the
4 National Solar Observatory's headquarters at The University of
5 Alabama in Huntsville; and

6 WHEREAS, The University of Alabama in Huntsville was
7 among seven universities competing for the NSO headquarters,
8 but now is one of only two campuses, along with the University
9 of Colorado in Boulder, identified as the potential site for
10 the headquarters; and

11 WHEREAS, the headquarters of this national research
12 organization would have numerous benefits for Huntsville and
13 the State of Alabama, including improved infrastructure for
14 research and teaching both at the university level and in K-12
15 schools, in addition to support for the mission of
16 NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center and the United States Army
17 at Redstone Arsenal; and

18 WHEREAS, a successful effort by the Huntsville
19 community and the State of Alabama would result in the
20 relocation of 61 highly specialized and well-paid
21 professionals to Alabama, as well as enhance the workforce
22 development efforts of the state; and

23 WHEREAS, other benefits will accumulate from the
24 location of this headquarters, including increasing the
25 potential growth of future research dollars for Alabama's
26 universities, and research conducted at this facility will
27 bring international recognition to Alabama; now therefore,

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
2 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That this Legislature is committed
3 to working with the Governor and the university in the
4 implementation of a long-range plan to enhance and expand
5 solar physics instruction and research and, viewing favorably
6 the mission of the National Solar Observatory, we hereby urge
7 the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy to
8 relocate the headquarters of the National Solar Observatory to
9 the campus of The University of Alabama in Huntsville.