

1 SJR80
2 129129-3
3 By Senators Orr, Holtzclaw, McGill, Sanford, Scofield, Irons,
4 Bedford and Bussman
5 RFD: Rules
6 First Read: 12-APR-11

1 SJR80

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4 ENROLLED, SJR80,

5 URGING THE STATE OF GEORGIA TO INVEST IN
6 INFRASTRUCTURE AND IMPROVE CONSERVATION EFFORTS TO ADDRESS ITS
7 WATER SUPPLY NEEDS.

8
9 WHEREAS, the Tennessee River is of enormous economic
10 and environmental importance to the State of Alabama and its
11 citizens; and

12 WHEREAS, the transfer of water out of the Tennessee
13 River Basin by an upstream state into another river basin
14 imposes costs on downstream communities by diminishing the
15 flow of water in the Tennessee River, particularly during
16 periods of drought; and

17 WHEREAS, the Atlanta metropolitan area in the State
18 of Georgia has failed to invest adequately in water supply
19 infrastructure for decades, but has instead relied in meeting
20 water supply needs upon use of storage in federal reservoirs
21 to which it has no legal entitlement to the detriment of
22 downstream communities, including communities located in
23 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 those water
6 supply needs of metropolitan Atlanta currently being met out
7 of the Chattahoochee River Basin can still be met out of that
8 Basin in the future if local interests make a sufficient
9 investment in infrastructure and undertake appropriate
10 conservation measures; and

11 WHEREAS, the Georgia Senate and House of
12 Representatives recently passed a resolution urging a study of
13 the withdrawal, storage, and distribution of waters from the
14 Tennessee River Basin to other parts of Georgia in need of
15 additional water supplies; and

16 WHEREAS, the resolution did not recognize or
17 consider the costs on downstream communities in Alabama,
18 Mississippi, Tennessee, and Kentucky of such a proposed
19 transfer of water out of the Tennessee River Basin; now
20 therefore,

21 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
22 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we urge the State of Georgia
23 to recognize that meeting the water supply needs of the
24 Atlanta metropolitan area and other communities in Georgia
25 outside of the Tennessee River Basin should be met through

1 long overdue investment in infrastructure and improvement of
2 conservation in the river basin in which those communities are
3 located, rather than through the contemplated transfer of
4 water away from the Tennessee River Basin.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Governor of Alabama
6 and the Alabama Attorney General are urged to take whatever
7 action is necessary, including legal action, to prevent any
8 effort by the State of Georgia to divert water away from the
9 Tennessee River Basin to other parts of Georgia.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this
11 resolution shall be provided to the Governor of Alabama, the
12 Alabama Attorney General, and the Governor of Georgia as an
13 expression of our strong sentiments on this issue.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR80
Senate 21-APR-11
I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution
originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris
Secretary

House of Representatives
Adopted: 26-APR-11

By: Senator Orr