

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

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8 URGING THE STATE OF GEORGIA TO INVEST IN  
9 INFRASTRUCTURE AND IMPROVE CONSERVATION EFFORTS TO ADDRESS ITS  
10 WATER SUPPLY NEEDS.

11  
12 WHEREAS, the Tennessee River is of enormous economic  
13 and environmental importance to the State of Alabama and its  
14 citizens; and

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

20 WHEREAS, the Atlanta metropolitan area in the State  
21 of Georgia has failed to invest adequately in water supply  
22 infrastructure for decades, but has instead relied in meeting  
23 water supply needs upon use of storage in federal reservoirs  
24 to which it has no legal entitlement to the detriment of  
25 downstream communities, including communities located in  
26 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  
26 long overdue investment in infrastructure and improvement of  
27 conservation in the river basin in which those communities are

1 located, rather than through the contemplated transfer of  
2 water away from the Tennessee River Basin.

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

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