

House Resolution 1293

By: Representatives Smith of the 19th, Snow of the 2nd, Joyce of the 1st, Reece of the 11th, Brooks of the 54th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging President George W. Bush and federal agencies to assist Governor Roy Barnes to
2 obtain federal assistance in coping with the emergency situation involving Tri-State
3 Crematory in Walker County; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, on February 15, 2002, Georgia awoke to an unprecedented tragedy with the
5 discovery of discarded human remains at the Tri-State Crematory in Walker County. The
6 scope of the emergency, which was immediately evident, so clearly placed the situation
7 beyond the capacity of local resources that Governor Roy Barnes declared a state of
8 emergency, beginning a large-scale operation involving a large infusion of state money and
9 resources; and

10 WHEREAS, from the beginning the investigation revealed an expanding tragedy the end of
11 which has yet to be seen, and the number of bodies involved and the time over which the
12 events occurred seems to grow with each new discovery; and

13 WHEREAS, the cost in human misery is incalculable, as family after family discovers that
14 a loved one was not placed to rest as they had been led to believe, and the suffering of so
15 many people requires the state to use as much of its resources as are necessary to bring as
16 rapid a resolution to this situation as possible; and

17 WHEREAS, the scope and cost of the operation presents a substantial burden on resources
18 of the state already stretched by the requirements of homeland security dictated by the events
19 of September 11, and the State of Georgia is in great need of assistance from the federal level
20 in coping with this situation, which at the very least equals a substantial natural disaster; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Joe M. Allbaugh, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency
22 (FEMA), has notified Governor Barnes that the state can expect no assistance from FEMA,
23 suggesting that the response efforts required for evaluation, investigation, and remediation

1 fall under the jurisdiction of other federal authorities, including the Department of Health and
2 Human Services, Environmental Protection Agency, and Department of Justice.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
4 the members of this body urge President George W. Bush to review the situation involving
5 the Tri-State Crematory and the great burden upon the state's resources in bringing a rapid
6 end to the situation and easing the suffering of so many of its citizens and assist Governor
7 Barnes' efforts to obtain federal assistance and reimbursement.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
9 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to President George W. Bush,
10 Mr. Joe M. Allbaugh, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the
11 directors of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Environmental Protection
12 Agency, and the Department of Justice.