

Senate Resolution 846

By: Senators Hill of the 4th, Polak of the 42nd and Lamutt of the 21st

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the United States Congress to restore funding for the Manufacturing Extension
2 Partnership (MEP) at the \$110 million level in the fiscal year 2003 federal budget; and for
3 other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, President George W. Bush's proposed federal budget for the fiscal year 2003
5 eliminates critical funding for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) in the
6 Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology fiscal year 2003
7 budget; and

8 WHEREAS, manufacturing is a vital industry for Georgia accounting for 15 percent of all
9 jobs in the state and among the highest paying jobs in rural areas; and

10 WHEREAS, the MEP program primarily assists small and medium sized manufacturers in
11 the adoption of the latest and most efficient technologies, processes, and business practices;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, 98 percent of Georgia's 11,000 manufacturers are small to medium sized
14 enterprises with an average employment of 50; and

15 WHEREAS, the MEP program is an excellent example of a successful federal-state-private
16 partnership and MEP's success has been confirmed by the General Accounting Office, the
17 Census Bureau, NIST, and others; and

18 WHEREAS, the Economic Development Institute (EDI) at the Georgia Institute of
19 Technology has a proven track record of helping manufacturers improve their competitive
20 position through the MEP program and an independent analysis shows that the MEP program
21 returns at least \$4.00 in federal tax revenue for every \$1.00 invested in MEP; and

1 WHEREAS, Georgia Tech's EDI has used its MEP program to expand its regional office
2 service network and to provide new services to manufacturers, with more than 1,220
3 companies benefiting from the services provided through MEP in 2001; and

4 WHEREAS, the budget impact of this program elimination on Georgia is \$2.6 million and
5 comes at the worst possible time for our state financially and hurts small and medium sized
6 manufacturers at a time when they are struggling with a slowing economy.

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
8 GEORGIA that the members of this body respectfully request that the United States
9 Congress enact legislation that will fund the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) at
10 the \$110 million level in the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and
11 Technology fiscal year 2003 federal budget, of which Georgia should receive at least \$2.6
12 million.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
14 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Clerk of the United States House of
15 Representatives and the Secretary of the United States Senate.