

House Resolution 767

By: Representatives Floyd of the 132nd, Twiggs of the 8th, Stephens of the 123rd, Roberts of the 131st, Burmeister of the 96th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending railroads operating in the State of Georgia for improving their safety and
2 efficiency by taking advantage of the innovative and proven technology used for remote
3 controlled locomotives; and for other purposes.
- 4 WHEREAS, a safe and efficient railroad system is vital for businesses and industries
5 currently operating in Georgia and for future economic development in the state; and
- 6 WHEREAS, innovations that enhance the safety of railroad operations in Georgia benefit
7 both the general public and railroad employees; and
- 8 WHEREAS, innovations that improve the efficiency of railroads in Georgia help hold down
9 freight rates and thereby enhance the competitive position of businesses and industries in the
10 state that rely on railroads to transport both raw materials and finished products; and
- 11 WHEREAS, the two major railroads in Canada have been using remote controlled
12 locomotives for over a decade with dramatic reductions in their accident rates and in their
13 operating costs; and
- 14 WHEREAS, the remote control technology enables the railroad employees on the ground to
15 move cars around as needed without depending on someone in the locomotive cab and
16 without risking a miscommunication with possibly devastating results; and
- 17 WHEREAS, the Federal Railroad Administration has issued guidelines for the operation of
18 remote controlled locomotives on railroads in the United States; and
- 19 WHEREAS, the remote control procedures and safety features would make it more difficult
20 for a terrorist to take over control of a remote controlled locomotive; and

1 WHEREAS, the Georgia railroads have begun to utilize remote controlled locomotives for
2 switching operations in various terminals in Georgia and other states and have experienced
3 significant reductions in accident rates as compared to conventional switching operations.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
5 the railroads of Georgia are hereby recognized and commended for their exemplary efforts
6 to improve their safety and efficiency by embracing the proven and innovative technology
7 which makes it possible to perform switching operations safely with remote controlled
8 locomotives.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
10 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the executive director of the
11 Georgia Railroad Association and its board of directors.