

## Senate Resolution 453

By: Senators Crotts of the 17th and Williams of the 19th

## 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 railroad employees and the general public; 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 SENATE that the railroads of Georgia  
5 are hereby recognized and commended for their exemplary efforts to improve their safety  
6 and efficiency by embracing the proven and innovative technology which makes it possible  
7 to perform switching operations safely with remote controlled locomotives.

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