

Senate Resolution 755

By: Senators Harp of the 16th, Tolleson of the 18th, Gillis of the 20th, Williams of the 19th and Hooks of the 14th

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to consider creating a national preserve or other
2 similar federal property to protect land and other natural resources in a continuous corridor
3 of the Ocmulgee and Altamaha Rivers in central and south Georgia; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, there exist a number of federal and state government properties in a corridor
5 extending down and along the Ocmulgee River from the Georgia Highway 16 bridge at the
6 Butts County-Jasper County line to that river's confluence with the Oconee River and thence
7 down and along the Altamaha River to the U.S. Highway 1 bridge in Appling County, such
8 public properties including but not being limited to all of the Oconee National Forest south
9 of I-20, Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge, Rum Creek Wildlife Management Area,
10 Ocmulgee National Monument (including the Ocmulgee Old Fields), Ocmulgee Wildlife
11 Management Area, Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, Broxton Rocks Wildlife
12 Management Area, and Moody Forest Natural Area; and

13 WHEREAS, while these public lands along or near the Ocmulgee and Altamaha Rivers are
14 relatively near to each other, they remain fragmented, under different management, and
15 dedicated to different purposes; and

16 WHEREAS, the location and proximity of these current public land holdings along the
17 Ocmulgee and Altamaha Rivers yet present a unique opportunity to achieve, in a single
18 effort, a number of important goals benefiting the general public, preserving valuable natural
19 and historic resources, stimulating local economies, and enhancing military operations; and

20 WHEREAS, connecting these public land holdings by acquisition of interstitial private
21 properties along the rivers from willing sellers or by donation but not by exercise of the
22 power of eminent domain, consolidating the public land corridor thus created under federal
23 ownership through conveyances from the state, and unifying the purpose and management
24 of such corridor by conferring national preserve or other federally protected status on the
25 continuous whole would create a great protected river corridor consisting of an integrated

1 system of scenic, historic, and recreational resources for the enjoyment of the nation at large;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, such a national preserve or other similar federal property protecting land and
4 other natural resources also would stimulate local economies through tourism while
5 protecting water supplies and other natural resources, providing roaming range for wildlife,
6 and protecting Robins Air Force base from being encircled and trapped by development
7 which could limit mission capability.

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the Congress of the
9 United States be and is hereby urged to consider creating a national preserve or other similar
10 federal property to protect land and other natural resources in a continuous corridor of the
11 Ocmulgee and Altamaha Rivers in central and south Georgia as described and for the reasons
12 stated above.

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 following members of the Congress
15 of the United States: the Speaker of the House of Representatives; Majority Leader of the
16 Senate; chairperson of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; chairperson
17 of the House Committee on Resources; and each member of Georgia's congressional
18 delegation.