

The Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee offered the following substitute to SR 297:

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the United States Congress to establish a domestic energy policy that will ensure an  
2 adequate supply of energy and the appropriate infrastructure; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the price of natural gas in the United States, already the highest in the industrial  
4 world, has again spiked and shows continued volatility; and

5 WHEREAS, the current price of natural gas is equivalent to paying \$16.00 for a gallon of  
6 milk, \$12.70 for a pound of ground beef, or \$9.21 for a gallon of gasoline; and

7 WHEREAS, abnormally high natural gas prices have been a \$111 billion unanticipated  
8 burden on the economy of the United States over the past 30 months; and

9 WHEREAS, the United States is over reliant on natural gas in our national energy supply,  
10 creating a tremendous imbalance between natural gas supply and demand; and

11 WHEREAS, Georgia's manufacturers, farmers, small businesses, local governments,  
12 retailers, and residential consumers are struggling from skyrocketing natural gas prices.  
13 Further, thousands of jobs in these industries are threatened since many of these businesses  
14 use natural gas as a raw material as well as an energy supply; and

15 WHEREAS, the natural gas imbalance is not a free market problem. The high price of  
16 natural gas is created by governmental policies that increase demand for natural gas while  
17 impeding the development of a greater supply by discouraging more exploration and  
18 production. Since natural gas is domestically produced and very hard to import, the United  
19 States cannot correct the imbalance by the importation of natural gas; and

20 WHEREAS, the Georgia Senate supports a sound, rational, and domestic energy policy.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that this body urges the  
2 United States Congress to enact legislation in the 109th Congress establishing a domestic  
3 energy policy that will ensure an adequate supply of natural gas and the appropriate  
4 infrastructure. Such energy policy should develop a concerted national effort to promote  
5 greater energy efficiency, and open promising new areas for environmentally responsible  
6 natural gas production.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
8 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to President George W. Bush, the President  
9 of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and  
10 each member of the Georgia congressional delegation.