

House Resolution 1610

By: Representatives Franklin of the 43rd, Chambers of the 81st, Neal of the 1st, Crawford of the 127th, Cox of the 102nd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Relative to the safeguarding of the integrity and security of the ports of Georgia; and for
2 other purposes.

3 Whereas, there is a pending sale of a company involved in the management of port
4 operations in six major American cities; and

5 Whereas, this transaction creates a potential for serious detrimental impact to the continuity
6 of operations of critical infrastructure in the United States of America; and

7 Whereas, the current proposal would affect facilities located in Baltimore, New Orleans,
8 Miami, Philadelphia, New Jersey, and New York, establishing an ominous precedent that
9 could affect the integrity of Eastern seaport operations in the United States; and

10 Whereas, the public policy hazards of this proposal mandate serious consideration of the
11 long-term impact upon the affected seaports; and by extension the integrity of public safety
12 and commerce nationwide; and

13 Whereas, the balance of political and safety issues with a foreign entity will be altered
14 immediately if its home country should become hostile to the United States; and

15 Whereas, such contractual obligations could empower the foreign entity to inhibit shipments
16 perceived as undesirable to the military or economy of their country of origin, or that of their
17 allies; and

18 Whereas, this sale is inconsistent with policies promulgated to protect the safety of the
19 United States after the massive terrorist attack against America on September 11, 2001; and

20 Whereas, many warnings are being fielded concerning this transaction and the associated
21 security breaches, including court action to block the sale; and

1 Whereas, a foreign entity is already handling operations at a Georgia port facility; and

2 Whereas, it is desirable to keep such contracts with domestic entities to prevent
3 entanglements of international political actions from affecting the vital role of the ports of
4 Georgia.

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the General Assembly that the Georgia Ports
6 Authority shall safeguard the integrity and security of the ports of Georgia by involving only
7 domestic corporations in all future major contractual agreements. The Georgia Ports
8 Authority is further directed to review its current and pending relationships for potential
9 liabilities, including: conflict of interest, operation of facilities, or commerce, in a jurisdiction
10 hostile to the United States, corporate affiliations, security practices and policies, foreign
11 ownership or control; and due to the urgency of the matter, report its findings pursuant to this
12 resolution no later than 90 days after its adoption, providing copies to the Speaker of the
13 House, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and to any citizen upon request to the Clerk
14 of the House or the Secretary of the Senate.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House is authorized and directed to
16 transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the members of the Georgia Ports
17 Authority, and to the members of the Georgia Congressional Delegation.