

Senate Resolution 263

By: Senators Balfour of the 9th, Hudgens of the 47th, Cowsert of the 46th, Unterman of the 45th, Shafer of the 48th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to provide funding for the engineering,
2 construction, and land acquisition and other necessary costs for commuter rail connecting
3 Athens to Atlanta; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the Georgia Passenger Rail Program was initiated in 1995; and

5 WHEREAS, the Athens to Atlanta Commuter Rail was selected as the locally preferred
6 alternative, out of seven alternatives, by the state in December 2001; and

7 WHEREAS, the establishment of railway passenger service to the general public and
8 connecting points within and throughout this state and to nearby states will develop and
9 promote, for the public good and general welfare of this state, trade, commerce, tourism,
10 industry, and employment opportunities while alleviating highway traffic congestion and
11 related air pollution; and

12 WHEREAS, the citizens of Georgia are now faced with some of the longest commute times
13 in the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, the environmental assessment for the Athens to Atlanta Commuter Rail corridor
15 was approved with a finding of "no significant impact" in February 2004; and

16 WHEREAS, an audit of the Georgia Rail Passenger Program has shown \$2,342,785.00 has
17 been spent by the federal and state governments through 2006 to prepare the Athens to
18 Atlanta Rail Corridor; and

19 WHEREAS, the building of the Athens to Atlanta commuter rail line will require the least
20 purchase of right of way of any capacity increasing option available; and

1 WHEREAS, the construction of the line would increase economic development along and
2 around the corridor; and

3 WHEREAS, the Athens to Atlanta Commuter Rail Line is an important segment of an
4 overall healthy commuter and passenger rail system to move citizens throughout Georgia.

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
6 GEORGIA that the members of Congress are urged to help ensure that funding for the
7 Athens to Atlanta Commuter Rail Line is appropriated in the 110th Congress.

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 each member of the Georgia
10 congressional delegation.