

Senate Resolution 1063

By: Senator Johnson of the 1st

AS PASSED

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Georgia Environmental Protection Division to implement a new water quality
2 standard for the Savannah Harbor based on sound science that is economically achievable;
3 and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the existing total maximum daily load (TMDL) for dissolved oxygen (DO) for
5 the Savannah Harbor, adopted in 2006, sets the biochemical oxygen demand allowable inputs
6 level at zero; and

7 WHEREAS, this standard is generally recognized as unattainable through any level of effort
8 and restoration is needed; and

9 WHEREAS, enforcement efforts will under the current standard be directed at municipal and
10 industrial point source discharges even though such discharges contribute to only a small
11 percentage of the decreased dissolved oxygen levels in the harbor; and

12 WHEREAS, the existing standard will prohibit any new discharges or expansion of existing
13 discharges unless offset by reduction of an existing permitted discharge and will seriously
14 threaten the economic vitality and development of the entire Savannah River Basin; and

15 WHEREAS, development of a new water quality standard and TMDL for the Savannah
16 River is necessary for the long term environmental protection of the river basin and harbor
17 as well as the communities that are dependent on the river; and the modified Virginia
18 Province is the correct approach for development of a new standard.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
20 GEORGIA that this body hereby urges the Georgia Environmental Protection Division to
21 implement a new water quality standard for the Savannah Harbor with appropriate
22 recognition for environmental conditions as well as the role of the harbor in the economy of
23 the region.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
2 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the director of the Environmental
3 Protection Division and the members of the Board of Natural Resources.