

Senate Resolution 183

By: Senator Goggans of the 7th

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Douglas-Coffee County Economic Development  
2 Authority for more than 50 years of successful economic planning and development in the  
3 City of Douglas and Coffee County; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, in 1953, the Douglas-Coffee County Chamber of Commerce made a  
5 commitment to develop a plan to bring industry to the City of Douglas and Coffee County,  
6 Georgia; and

7 WHEREAS, two years later, Douglas became one of only two southern cities awarded a  
8 federal urban renewal grant, which included the designation of more than 200 acres of land  
9 for industrial development; and

10 WHEREAS, industrial development continued to be a vital part of the overall plan for the  
11 City of Douglas and Coffee County, and a ground breaking was held for an urban renewal  
12 project in the City of Douglas in 1957; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1958, Mr. Wendell Sears, a member of the Industrial Development  
14 Committee, made a motion for an effort to raise \$200,000 in support of industrial  
15 development; and

16 WHEREAS, that same year, County Commissioner Dan Jardine chaired a capital campaign  
17 to raise funds for industrial development and succeeded in raising \$250,000 within a  
18 two-week period from school children, factory workers, small business owners, and business  
19 leaders throughout the community; and

20 WHEREAS, these funds were used for construction of a facility for Swift & Company,  
21 which brought 200 new jobs to Coffee County and the region and provided for a continuous  
22 local poultry operation for more than 50 years, which now operates as Pilgrim's Pride with  
23 more than 800 employees; and

24 WHEREAS, commitment to economic growth through industrial development allowed  
25 existing local industries to prosper and for the recruitment of new diverse industries to Coffee  
26 County, including Fleetwood Enterprises, Williams Institutional Foods, and Crider Poultry  
27 (now Wayne Farms), which have celebrated more than 50 years of continuous operations in  
28 Coffee County; and

29 WHEREAS, in 1958, Mr. Elie Holton ran for mayor on the platform of establishing an  
30 Industrial Development Authority, and the citizens of the City of Douglas and Coffee County  
31 voted to support industrial development through an increase in their millage rate; and

32 WHEREAS, in 1959, State Representative Tom Fellows introduced legislation calling for  
33 the creation of the Douglas-Coffee County Industrial Authority to develop and promote  
34 industry within the City of Douglas and Coffee County, which was adopted by the General  
35 Assembly of Georgia through a constitutional amendment; and

36 WHEREAS, for 50 years, the City of Douglas, Coffee County, the Douglas-Coffee County  
37 Chamber of Commerce, the Douglas-Coffee County Industrial Authority, and the citizens  
38 of the City of Douglas and Coffee County have embraced a never-ending commitment to  
39 partnership and collaboration for the good of industrial development and the retention and  
40 recruitment of jobs; and

41 WHEREAS, it is evident that the City of Douglas and Coffee County have prospered from  
42 the work of the authority and have become known as leaders in rural economic development  
43 throughout the State of Georgia and the nation.

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
45 recognize the Douglas-Coffee County Economic Development Authority and its members  
46 for the significant programs and projects supporting economic development, job retention,  
47 and job growth for the community, the region, and the State of Georgia and congratulate the  
48 City of Douglas and Coffee County on 50 years of leadership and partnership for economic  
49 development.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
51 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Douglas-Coffee County Economic  
52 Development Authority.