A RESOLUTION

Requesting the implementation of a Strategic Deployment-Distribution Corridor Network by the Georgia Ports Authority and the Georgia Departments of Transportation, Economic Development, and Agriculture with assistance from the Georgia Congressional delegation; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, the State of Georgia is home to a complex joint logistics network of defense facilities critical to expeditionary warfare and global force projection and includes Fort Stewart, the largest Department of Defense complex east of the Mississippi River and home to the Third Infantry Division and Hunter Army Air Field; Warner Robins Air Force Base, home to United States Air Force strategic mobility aircraft; Fort Benning’s power projection support platform; Fort MacPherson, home to U.S. Forces Command; USMC Logistics Command Albany; Moody Air Force Base; and the strategic seaports of Savannah and Brunswick; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Savannah is the fourth largest and fastest growing container port in the United States with the ability to accommodate both commercial and military cargo; and

WHEREAS, the ports of Savannah and Brunswick are linked to other strategic seaports by distribution corridors which are composed of interstate highways to Macon and Atlanta, the Heartland Rail Corridor to Chicago and the Midwest, and rail and interstate highways to the Southwest and Southern California; and

WHEREAS, national intercity high speed rail corridors would enhance rapid mobility, intercity passenger movement, and freight mobility while alleviating regional congestion, improving air quality, reducing energy consumption and carbon emissions, and improving the movement of goods; and

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WHEREAS, the establishment of a state-wide rail corridor in Georgia would attract warehouse and distribution facilities to Georgia, increasing jobs in transportation, distribution, and manufacturing; and

WHEREAS, the addition of intelligent transportation systems and related information technology can further enhance current road and rail corridors in terms of improving capacity and efficiency while decreasing congestion and can potentially generate additional revenue sources to finance infrastructure improvements; and

WHEREAS, by expanding international, trade-driven economic development, Georgia counties situated along strategic deployment-distribution corridors will thrive from economic stimulus, and the need for additional trained workers will increase the enrollment in Georgia's institutions of secondary education and higher learning; and

WHEREAS, the Strategic Mobility 21 program funded by the U.S. Department of Defense, in collaboration with Georgia Southern University and other academic institutions, is facilitating the study and implementation of a network of rapid deployment-distribution corridors with the development of a Southeast Regional Agile Supply Network Model.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body request collaboration between the Georgia Ports Authority and the Georgia Departments of Transportation, Economic Development, and Agriculture in the development and implementation of Strategic Deployment-Distribution Corridors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, to further the ongoing efforts of Strategic Mobility 21, the Georgia Ports Authority and the Georgia Department of Transportation are encouraged to designate a network of Strategic Deployment-Distribution Corridors, incorporate this network in its state transportation plan, and seek assistance for implementing this network through federal funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Georgia Department of Economic Development and the Department of Agriculture are also encouraged to include the network of Strategic Deployment-Distribution Corridors in their promotional materials for the State of Georgia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Georgia Congressional delegation is requested to work to identify and designate Georgia transportation projects part of the Strategic Deployment-Distribution Corridors as candidates for federal funds.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Ports Authority, the Georgia Departments of Transportation, Economic Development, and Agriculture, and members of the Georgia Congressional delegation.