

Senate Resolution 311

By: Senators Jackson of the 2nd, Henson of the 41st, Stoner of the 6th, Orrock of the 36th, Jones of the 10th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to carefully consider the safety aspects
2 of allowing El Paso Corporation to transport liquefied natural gas through Georgia; and for
3 other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, El Paso Corporation, through its subsidiary Southern Liquefied Natural Gas
5 (SNLG), is petitioning the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to permit the
6 reactivation and expansion of truck loading facilities at its liquefied natural gas storage
7 facility at Elba Island, Georgia; and

8 WHEREAS, El Paso's petition includes plans to truck LNG through highly populated urban
9 areas using a new company created by El Paso and Atlanta Gas Light Corporation; and

10 WHEREAS, there has been no trucking of LNG through Savannah since the Elba Island
11 facility opened in 1978; El Paso had, in fact, pledged to city officials that no trucking would
12 take place; and

13 WHEREAS, El Paso has refused the city's requests for its risk analyses and emergency
14 response plan, claiming that the company is not obligated to provide them; and

15 WHEREAS, the El Paso petition is a request to begin a new operation – a wholly new
16 business – rather than simply to modify activities that were previously assessed by regulators
17 and approved; and

18 WHEREAS, in order to do this, El Paso is exploiting an exception to the regulations that
19 prohibit shipment of hazardous goods through urban areas; and

20 WHEREAS, the El Paso petition (FERC Docket CP10-477) will allow the trucking of as
21 many as 58 LNG tanks per day, each carrying 10,000 gallons of LNG or more, on an 8.5
22 mile-long series of urban streets; and

23 WHEREAS, the proposed route on DeRenne Avenue is immediately adjacent to the area's
24 two major hospitals, including the only Level I trauma center in Southeast Georgia, nursing
25 homes, schools, a college campus, shopping centers, Hunter Army Airfield, and hundreds
26 of nearby homes and offices; and

27 WHEREAS, if denied access to DeRenne, El Paso has advised it will seek to truck LNG via
28 Bay Street, which hosts a dozen hotels housing some of Savannah's 7 million tourists per
29 year; and

30 WHEREAS, accidents or terrorist attacks could produce catastrophic consequences on either
31 proposed route; and

32 WHEREAS, El Paso's proposal to place as many as 58 LNG tankers per day on these routes
33 will offer attackers the opportunity to create mass casualties and to damage sites of high
34 political and symbolic value.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the Federal Energy
36 Regulatory Commission is urged to call for and see to the implementation of an
37 Environmental Impact Statement that will identify and quantify El Paso Corporation's
38 ability to cope with possible accidents or terrorist attacks before granting El Paso the right
39 to transport LNG through urban areas.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
41 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Federal Energy Regulatory
42 Commission and the mayor and city council of Savannah.