

The House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment offers the following substitute to HR 424:

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the performance of a feasibility study of the withdrawal, storage, and distribution of
2 waters from a certain portion of the basin of the Tennessee River; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the need to develop alternative sources of water supply and storage for much
4 of Georgia is an issue of considerable urgency, particularly in light of a decision by the
5 United States District Court entered in 2009 which found that communities in Georgia now
6 dependent on the waters of Lake Lanier for water supply may no longer depend on that
7 supply after 2012, absent a settlement among the States of Georgia, Alabama, and Florida;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Lookout Creek in Dade County, Chattanooga Creek in Walker County, and
10 West Chickamauga and South Chickamauga Creeks in Catoosa County have, by some
11 estimates based on the last ten years of available data from the United States Geological
12 Survey and other sources, combined average flows of at least 725 million gallons per day,
13 all of which flow northward into the Tennessee River; and

14 WHEREAS, there also exist abandoned rock quarries in north Georgia that can and do fill
15 with very large volumes of water, including one in Walker County that is reported to have
16 a water storage capacity of at least 3 billion gallons (9,207 acre-feet) of water; and

17 WHEREAS, the right of way of a railroad, owned by the State of Georgia, passes through
18 the property on which the Walker County quarry described above is located and runs
19 southward to the vicinity of Rome; and

20 WHEREAS, it may be possible to withdraw water from such north-flowing tributaries which
21 might otherwise go unused in this state, pump the water into such an abandoned quarry for
22 storage, and distribute water from such storage by means of a pipeline to be laid on the
23 railroad right of way and thence to areas of this state in need of additional water supplies.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
25 the members of this body urge the Department of Natural Resources, the Water Supply
26 Division of the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority, and private enterprises to study
27 the feasibility of surface water withdrawal, storage, and distribution as described in this
28 resolution.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
30 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the commissioner of natural
31 resources and the director of the Water Supply Division of the Georgia Environmental
32 Finance Authority.