

House Resolution 274

By: Representatives Smith of the 134th, Smyre of the 135th, Buckner of the 137th, Pezold of the 133rd, and Hugley of the 136th

A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting that the Department of the Army (DA) carefully consider the socioeconomic
2 impact the Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for Army 2020 Force
3 Restructuring will have on Fort Benning, Georgia, and the surrounding region; and for other
4 purposes.

5 WHEREAS, the Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for Army 2020 Force
6 Restructuring included two alternatives for reduction of both active duty and civilian
7 personnel at Fort Benning, Georgia, one of which is to take no action and face the loss of
8 7,100 personnel and the devastating impact this reduction would have on the region; and

9 WHEREAS, the Department of Defense and the Department of the Army have made
10 significant investments in the infrastructure of Fort Benning, including \$3.5 billion in
11 infrastructure construction, refurbishment, and modernization of facilities to relocate the
12 Armor School and other organizations to create the Maneuver Center of Excellence; a new
13 75 bed, 750,000 square foot, Martin Army Community Hospital, estimated to cost \$300
14 million; and approximately 20,000 acres reshaped; and

15 WHEREAS, the federal, state, and local governments, as well as local educational
16 authorities, have made significant investments that include a \$57 million interchange into
17 Fort Benning; a \$70 million expansion of I-185 from four to six lanes leading into Fort
18 Benning's main entrance; the passage of an educational special purpose local option sales tax,
19 projected to raise \$223 million to provide for additional schools for the children of soldiers,
20 civilian personnel, and defense contractors relocating in the region; and the passage of a
21 transportation special purpose local option sales tax to build road infrastructure; and

22 WHEREAS, according to the Assessment, a reduction of 7,100 active duty and civilian
23 personnel would result in a 17,815 loss in total population, which represents a 5.74 percent
24 decrease in the region, a 3.16 percent loss of sales volume, a 4.99 percent drop in regional

25 income, and 5.94 percent loss in regional nonfarm employment, which has the potential to
26 affect low-income populations the most negatively; and

27 WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of all members of the General Assembly to guard
28 diligently the economic, social, and progressive prosperity of citizens throughout the State
29 of Georgia.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
31 the members of this body request that the Department of the Army consider the potential
32 repercussions of the Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Army 2020 Force
33 Restructuring, particularly on the economic stability of the region which has been so proud
34 to flourish with the thousands of Fort Benning residents who have called it home.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
36 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Department of the Army
37 and the United States Army Environmental Command.