

## House Resolution 532

By: Representatives Powell of the 32<sup>nd</sup>, McCall of the 33<sup>rd</sup>, Gasaway of the 28<sup>th</sup>, Fleming of the 121<sup>st</sup>, Harbin of the 122<sup>nd</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting that the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) utilize adaptive  
2 management techniques to control lake levels and river flows within the Savannah River  
3 Basin; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, technology currently exists for real-time monitoring of water quality and flow  
5 parameters within the Savannah River Basin; and

6 WHEREAS, the regional water plan developed by the Savannah – Upper Ogeechee Planning  
7 Council and adopted by the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural  
8 Resources recognizes the economic impact of lake levels and downstream river flows on the  
9 communities that have developed both around USACE projects and downstream in the basin,  
10 and it recognizes the need to protect the economic well-being of those communities; and

11 WHEREAS, the regional water plan also acknowledges the benefit of releasing less water  
12 from Thurmond Dam when adequate river flows are occurring downstream because it is  
13 generally in the best interest of all stakeholders within the Savannah River Basin to keep the  
14 lakes as full as practical for as long as practical so that stored water is available to release in  
15 times of lower rainfall.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
17 the members of this body request that USACE utilize adaptive management techniques to  
18 control the lake levels and river flows within the Savannah River Basin, including:

19 (1) Evaluating potential revisions to the rule curves for Lakes Thurmond and Hartwell  
20 and particularly whether the winter pool elevations could be beneficially raised;

21 (2) Managing the lakes more closely to the existing rule curves, particularly by  
22 evaluating the operational scenarios where downstream flow releases are reduced as soon  
23 as the lakes drop below the rule curves for Lakes Hartwell and Thurmond and by  
24 reducing the range of lake level drops between drought trigger levels; and

25 (3) Evaluating potential revisions to USACE operating protocols that would minimize  
26 the use of the available conservation storage in the lakes.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
28 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Commanding General and  
29 Chief of Engineers for the United States Army Corps of Engineers, each member of the  
30 South Carolina and Georgia congressional delegations, and the governors of South Carolina  
31 and Georgia.