

Senate Resolution 502

By: Senators Jackson of the 2nd, Jones of the 10th and Orrock of the 36th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the potential of wind energy and encouraging local governments to take the
2 steps necessary to create an open dialogue with local stakeholders and potential wind energy
3 developers in order to inform the public and maximize the potential for implementation of
4 available wind resources; and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, onshore wind energy provides enough electricity to power nearly 15 million
6 American homes annually and employs over 75,000 people in the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, offshore wind represents a significant source of clean, renewable energy; and

8 WHEREAS, the outer continental shelf off the Georgia coast includes 1,126 square miles of
9 area potentially suitable for offshore wind farms with up to 14.5 gigawatts of generating
10 capacity, enough to power nearly 3 million homes or one-third of Georgia's electricity; and

11 WHEREAS, wind is a domestic source of energy that is shielded from foreign interests and
12 represents one of the largest, cheapest sources of power that poses no significant harm to the
13 environment; and

14 WHEREAS, wind power is a proven, growing domestic energy market, as evidenced by
15 wind power representing the largest source of new power generating capacity in 2012 in the
16 United States; and

17 WHEREAS, the Port of Savannah, the fastest growing port in the nation, may serve as a
18 gateway for the global wind energy market that is expected to grow by hundreds of billions
19 of dollars in the next five years; and

20 WHEREAS, wind energy projects offer stable prices over as much as a 20 year period in
21 contrast to the volatile costs of fossil fuels; and

22 WHEREAS, wind development is dependent upon supportive local policies and public
23 opinion.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
25 encourage local governments to recognize wind energy as an important source of clean
26 energy and a significant job-creating industry; invite wind energy developers and
27 manufacturers to meet with Georgia public officials to further Georgia's advancement in
28 wind energy; and request that educational institutions and wind energy developers train and
29 utilize the local workforce and human resources of Georgia to plan, site, construct, and
30 operate future projects.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
32 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy.