

Senate Resolution 531

By: Senator Tolleson of the 20th

A RESOLUTION

1 Supporting House Bill 348 and encouraging and supporting the Georgia Department of
2 Transportation in its efforts to maximize the use of funding mechanisms aimed at reducing
3 diesel emissions; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Georgia supports the adoption of alternative fuel vehicles through the
5 low-emission and zero emission tax credits directed at personal vehicles; and

6 WHEREAS, alternative fuel vehicles reduce harmful emissions and help to improve air
7 quality and the health of our citizens; and

8 WHEREAS, the conversion of gas or diesel powered commercial vehicles will reduce the
9 emission of pollutants between 50 and 100 percent, depending on the vehicle; and

10 WHEREAS, three regional planning districts in Georgia are designated as nonattainment
11 areas by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and

12 WHEREAS, EPA studies indicate that commercial trucks are now the major contributor to
13 air pollution; and

14 WHEREAS, EPA studies reveal that the conversion of one heavy-duty truck to natural gas
15 is the equivalent of taking 325 cars off the road in terms of air quality; and

16 WHEREAS, all-electric vehicles are categorized as zero emission vehicles by the EPA
17 because they produce no direct tailpipe emissions; and

18 WHEREAS, widespread use of commercial heavy-duty and light-duty electric vehicles would
19 dramatically reduce petroleum consumption; and

20 WHEREAS, 98 percent of propane autogas is produced in the United States, which enhances
21 our energy security; and

22 WHEREAS, propane autogas significantly reduces pollutants like carbon monoxide and other
23 greenhouse gasses and presents an economic advantage for businesses seeking to reduce their
24 fuel budgets by up to one-third; and

25 WHEREAS, new natural gas production has provided the United States with over a 100 year
26 supply of natural gas, thereby driving its commodity price to historic lows; and

27 WHEREAS, using natural gas as a motor fuel presents an opportunity to end our reliance on
28 foreign oil through the utilization of natural gas vehicles; and

29 WHEREAS, if all tractor-trailers operated on natural gas, the United States would cut its
30 dependence on foreign oil in half; and

31 WHEREAS, the expansion of alternative fuel fleets will create jobs as companies return the
32 savings on fuel back into the economy of Georgia; and

33 WHEREAS, in addition to supporting Georgia companies that are early adopters of this
34 technology for alternative fuel vehicles, Georgia should maximize and leverage the federal
35 dollars sent to the state through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program; and

36 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Transportation should direct the Atlanta Regional
37 Commission to actively engage in public-private partnerships with Georgia businesses that
38 will replace diesel powered vehicles with alternative fuel vehicles.

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
40 support House Bill 348 and encourage and support the Georgia Department of Transportation
41 in its efforts to maximize the use of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funding that is
42 directed to be used to reduce diesel emissions.