

## Senate Resolution 806

By: Senators Ligon, Jr. of the 3rd, Carter of the 1st, Tolleson of the 20th, Chance of the 16th and Beach of the 21st

## A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging Congress to enact legislation that would fully fund the annual dredging cycle  
2 at the Port of Brunswick and continue to fund the program into coming fiscal years; and for  
3 other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, this past fiscal year, the Port of Brunswick handled over three million tons of  
5 cargo, an increase of over 47 percent from the previous year; Colonel's Island alone is third  
6 in the United States based on tonnage of automobiles, heavy duty machinery, and  
7 military-related vehicles; and

8 WHEREAS, over the past seven years, the enlarging shoal area on the St. Simons Outer Bar  
9 Channel has affected the operating efficiency and safety parameters entering and leaving the  
10 channel; the shoaling has reduced the channel to such a depth that vessels must often wait  
11 for maximum tidal lift before transitioning through the channel; and

12 WHEREAS, although the channel is authorized by federal funds to be maintained, presently,  
13 there are more than five million cubic yards of material in the channel entrance and the actual  
14 funds received provide only enough to remove 400,000 cubic yards of material,  
15 approximately 10 percent of shoaling; in addition to lack of funding, excessive regulations,  
16 funding shortfalls, and government delays continue to limit annual real accessible monies to  
17 maintain a serviceable depth and safe channel; and

18 WHEREAS, if harbors and federally authorized channels are not maintained, the large  
19 number of port jobs, community partnerships, and capital investments will quickly be  
20 affected negatively; and

21 WHEREAS, Colonel's Island is less than one-half developed with several shippers and other  
22 related businesses contemplating expansion, spurred by 46 percent growth over the last four  
23 years; the University of Georgia's Terry College of Business has stated that more than 14,500

24 jobs in the Brunswick area are generated by Georgia's deep water ports; it is projected 600  
25 vessels will call on Brunswick this calendar year; and

26 WHEREAS, in 2013, vessel operators in Brunswick paid more than \$12 million in harbor  
27 maintenance user fees to the federal government, and annual duties collected by United  
28 States Customs have been estimated to exceed \$350 million; and

29 WHEREAS, failures of the federal government to honor its statutory responsibilities have  
30 stymied obstacle-free shipping channels; this funding shortfall has become an economic and  
31 national security issue because the shipping channels are equivalent to the interstate highway  
32 system and a significant part of the national commercial infrastructure.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
34 encourage Congress to enact legislation to amend full funding of the annual dredging cycle  
35 and continue to fund the program into coming fiscal years and consider using Harbor  
36 Maintenance Trust Fund fees for their intended use where collected, along with assessing the  
37 dredge status of all the nation's harbors and waterways for a stronger America.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
39 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia congressional delegation.