

Senate Resolution 807

By: Senators Jackson of the 2nd and Ramsey, Sr. of the 43rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the Savannah City Council for its support of port truck drivers; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the goods movement industry, and port trucking in particular, is vital to the
4 economy of the City of Savannah, which is home to dozens of port trucking companies
5 serving the Port of Savannah; and

6 WHEREAS, there are over 1,000 port truck drivers who live in and around Savannah that
7 perform the critical work of moving billions of dollars worth of cargo each year to and from
8 the port; and

9 WHEREAS, many of these port truck drivers suffer from substandard working conditions,
10 primarily their misclassification as independent contractors, which, if addressed, would
11 generate additional economic benefits for the city every year; and

12 WHEREAS, raising the standard of living for port truck drivers would further increase the
13 economic benefit to the City of Savannah, largely by improving wages and benefits; and

14 WHEREAS, workers who are wrongly classified as independent contractors are denied
15 fundamental employee rights, such as minimum wage, workers' compensation insurance,
16 disability insurance, unemployment insurance, safety and health protections, and the right
17 to bargain collectively; and

18 WHEREAS, labor disputes can be detrimental to business and the local economy, with
19 potential impacts that include low workforce moral, reduced productivity, and disruptions
20 in operations; and

21 WHEREAS, the Savannah City Council hereby affirms its support for the drivers at the Port
22 of Savannah in their struggle for justice; and

23 WHEREAS, the Savannah City Council finds that it is in the best interest of the City of
24 Savannah that trucking firms conducting business at the Port of Savannah not engage in the
25 practice of misclassifying their employees; and

26 WHEREAS, the Savannah City Council calls upon the port trucking industry to be a
27 responsible member of the Savannah business community by respecting workers, the
28 environment, and the community.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
30 encourage trucking firms conducting business at the Port of Savannah to remain neutral, to
31 respect their employees' right to organize, and to refrain from opposing their employees'
32 desire to organize.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
34 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Savannah City Council.