

## House Resolution 1718

By: Representatives McClain of the 100<sup>th</sup>, Beasley-Teague of the 65<sup>th</sup>, and Jones of the 53<sup>rd</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting Georgia's congressional delegation to oppose extension of disastrous trade  
2 policies; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, United States' trade deals for the past 25 years have been corporate-driven,  
4 incorporating rules that skew benefits to economic elites while requiring working families  
5 to bear the brunt of such policies; and

6 WHEREAS, the growing trade deficits and offshoring of jobs, driven by the North American  
7 Free Trade Agreement, China's accession to the World Trade Organization, and the United  
8 States-Korea Free Trade Agreement, have displaced 700,000 and 3.2 million, and 75,000  
9 United States jobs, respectively; and

10 WHEREAS, jobs lost due to trade devastate families and entire communities and can  
11 permanently reduce lifetime earnings for hundreds of thousands of workers, and the State of  
12 Georgia opposes jeopardizing our economy further with bad, unbalanced trade deals given  
13 that the state unemployment rate is 6.3 percent and one of every five Georgians already lives  
14 at or below the poverty rate; and

15 WHEREAS, the disproportionate voice of powerful global corporations in the formation of  
16 United States "free trade" agreements has advanced an agenda that undermines the public  
17 interest and threatens democracy; and

18 WHEREAS, past United States trade agreements and the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership  
19 (TPP) include special legal rights for foreign investors, known as "investor-to-state dispute  
20 settlement" (ISDS), that allows foreign firms to bypass state and federal courts to challenge  
21 local laws, regulations, and administrative decisions before panels of private lawyers; and

22 WHEREAS, foreign investors already have used NAFTA's ISDS provisions to challenge  
23 decisions regarding local building permits, environmental regulations, state bans on toxic  
24 chemicals, and decisions of state courts; and

25 WHEREAS, promoting economic growth with equity in Atlanta requires an approach that  
26 reforms the entire trade negotiation process to ensure that voices of workers, farmers, small  
27 businesses, families, and communities are heard and their interests addressed; and

28 WHEREAS, the TPP has been negotiated in secret, effectively shutting state and local  
29 governments out of the process, limiting our ability to influence its rules to ensure the people  
30 of Atlanta can participate in the benefits of trade; and

31 WHEREAS, given the enactment of fast track trade negotiating authority, states, localities  
32 and their citizens will have no opportunity to correct shortcomings in the TPP since its text  
33 will not be made public until it is final and no longer can be improved.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
35 that this body calls upon our elected officials in the United States Senate and United States  
36 House of Representatives to oppose the TPP and any future trade deals if they fail to  
37 restructure skewed policies of the past.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our elected officials in the United States Senate and  
39 United States House of Representatives are called upon to support new trade deals such as  
40 the TPP only if they will: protect and promote traditional state and local prerogatives and  
41 authority under our federal system, including by ensuring that states and localities will not  
42 be required to comply with certain commitments, including any restrictions on preferences  
43 for local, state, or United States goods or services, without prior informed consent of the  
44 legislature or local lawmaking body; include enforceable rules against currency  
45 manipulation, which countries such as China and Japan have used to tilt the playing field in  
46 their favor; exclude investor-to-state dispute settlement (ISDS) and other provisions that  
47 favor foreign companies over domestic ones and undermine public choices; ensure that  
48 countries cannot undercut United States based producers with weaker labor and  
49 environmental laws and enforcement; include strong rule of origin to promote economic  
50 growth and job creation in the United States; and put the interests of people and the planet  
51 over the interests of private profit.

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
53 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to members of the  
54 public and the press.