

Senate Resolution 595

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Tippins of the 37th, Harrell of the 40th, Tate of the 38th, Hufstetler of the 52nd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Public Service Commission to pursue actions that would prohibit the continued
2 collection of the Vogtle surcharge resulting in immediate financial relief to current
3 ratepayers; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the original controversial Georgia Nuclear Energy Financing Act of 2009
5 anticipated that Georgians would pay a nuclear construction surcharge for five years; and

6 WHEREAS, the nuclear construction surcharge, the Vogtle surcharge, has now gone on six
7 years longer than legislators anticipated with no reliable ending date in sight; and

8 WHEREAS, customers have already paid over \$3.5 billion in surcharges, an average of
9 \$850.00 per household, to construct Plant Vogtle; and

10 WHEREAS, Georgia Power's profits jumped more than 20 percent to an all-time high when
11 it began collecting the Vogtle surcharge; and

12 WHEREAS, Georgia Power has posted \$12.8 billion in profits since Vogtle construction and
13 the surcharges began; and

14 WHEREAS, the Vogtle surcharge unfairly burdens the small and medium sized residential
15 and commercial customers, which includes the elderly, working poor, schools, and nonprofit
16 services, while industrial customers are exempt from such surcharge; and

17 WHEREAS, although Georgia Power has testified that construction is nearly complete, many
18 observers, including experts for the Georgia Public Service Commission, anticipate that the
19 construction of Plant Vogtle will much take longer than the company has estimated; and

20 WHEREAS, from the initiation of the project, Georgia Power's estimated construction costs
21 and completion dates have been inaccurate 100 percent of the time; and

22 WHEREAS, when the Georgia Nuclear Energy Financing Act of 2009 was initially adopted,
23 it was not anticipated that the citizens of this state would bear the costs of expensive
24 construction mistakes, delays, and do-overs; and

25 WHEREAS, extensive ITAAC testing (Inspections, Tests, Analyses, and Acceptance Criteria
26 of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission) is far from complete and is required for an operating
27 license; and

28 WHEREAS, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission reports that of the 399 criteria per reactor,
29 131, or 30 percent, remain to be tested for Vogtle 3, and 279, or 70 percent, remain to be
30 tested for Vogtle 4; and

31 WHEREAS, all ITAAC testing must be complete before nuclear fuel can be loaded and
32 start-up of operation can begin; and

33 WHEREAS, numerous problems found during testing will likely push the start date for such
34 nuclear units to much later than the most current claims of late 2022 for Vogtle 3 and 2023
35 for Vogtle 4; and

36 WHEREAS, a significant amount of Vogtle 3 and Vogtle 4 construction will remain even
37 after completing ITAAC testing, as after the nuclear fuel load phase, the construction site
38 will have to ramp up nuclear security, further hobbling the remaining construction of the
39 project; and

40 WHEREAS, under current law, the nuclear surcharges will continue until both Vogtle 3 and
41 Vogtle 4 are online unless regulatory or legislative action is taken.

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY that the
43 members of this body support actions by the Public Service Commission that would prohibit
44 the continued collection of the Vogtle surcharge resulting in immediate financial relief to
45 Georgia's electric customers, without harm to Georgia Power or disruption of the Vogtle
46 construction project.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
48 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
49 Public Service Commission and Georgia Power.