

House Resolution 2087

By: Representatives Dempsey of the 13th, Lumsden of the 12th, Gambill of the 15th, Kelley of the 16th, Momtahan of the 17th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission upon its 65th anniversary; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in the late 1950s, two visionary leaders, T. Harley Harper and Fred F. Starr,
4 traveled the counties of Northwest Georgia promoting the idea of regional cooperation and
5 planning; and

6 WHEREAS, an area-wide organization was formed at a regional conference at Berry College
7 in Rome, Georgia, on May 7, 1959, with more than 400 area business, industrial, and
8 political leaders in attendance to discuss common problems and opportunities in the Coosa
9 Valley region, with two members representing each of the 12 associated counties; and

10 WHEREAS, a reorganization plan was developed under the Georgia General Planning and
11 Enabling Act of 1957, and 11 counties joined together to create the Coosa Valley Area
12 Planning and Development Commission; and

13 WHEREAS, Governor Ernest Vandiver and the Georgia General Assembly agreed to finance
14 the commission at \$30,000 per year, and each participating county agreed to contribute 25
15 cents per capita per annum to supplement the funding; and

16 WHEREAS, with legal authority and funding in place, the Coosa Valley Area Planning and
17 Development Commission began operation on April 1, 1961, becoming the first multi-county
18 organization of its type in Georgia as well as a model for other regions in the state and across
19 the country; and

20 WHEREAS, the Georgia Planning Act of 1989 changed the organization's name to the Coosa
21 Valley Regional Development Center, and other legislative acts amended its responsibilities;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, the North Georgia Regional Development Center was merged with the Coosa
24 Valley Regional Development Center in 2009 to form the Northwest Georgia Regional
25 Commission, which serves Bartow, Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade, Fannin, Floyd, Gilmer,
26 Gordon, Haralson, Murray, Paulding, Pickens, Polk, Walker, and Whitfield counties, their
27 48 constituent municipalities, and almost one million Georgians; and

28 WHEREAS, the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission works with federal and state
29 partners to provide aging, workforce, economic development, community planning, GIS
30 mapping, small business revolving loan fund, and other services to its members; and

31 WHEREAS, the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission has exemplified regional
32 cooperation through intrastate and interstate partnerships and initiatives with its peers in
33 Georgia and its neighbors in Alabama, Tennessee, and North Carolina; and

34 WHEREAS, the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission continues to fulfill its mission
35 statement "to improve the quality of life for every Northwest Georgia resident, through
36 orderly growth, conservation of the region's natural and historic resources, and care and
37 development of the region's human resources."

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
39 the members of this body commend the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission for 65
40 years of official service to the people and governments of Northwest Georgia, the State of
41 Georgia, and its peer organizations in the state and Appalachian Region.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
43 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
44 Northwest Georgia Regional Commission.