

HR 1909

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House Resolution

A resolution in support of the federal initiative to establish a regional approach to economic development in the Southeast.

WHEREAS, several academic studies, including the December 2001 Southeast Crescent Authority: A Proposal for Economic Growth in the Southeastern United States conducted by East Carolina University, and the January 2003 Study on Persistent Poverty by the University of Georgia and the Georgia Rural Development Council, among others, have shown that there is a region in the Southeast that has been persistently poor for decades, and

WHEREAS, this region is the poorest region of the country, and

WHEREAS, past policies for breaking the cycle of poverty in the region have failed, and different approaches are needed, and

WHEREAS, all of the people of the 7-state region, including Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia bear a tremendous burden from the continuous cycle of poverty, and

WHEREAS, the region is economically disadvantaged as compared with other regions in industry sectors when measured by the production of goods and services per person, and

WHEREAS, the most highly distressed areas of the region have a lower output of goods and services than either the Appalachian Regional Commission or the Delta Regional Authority counties, and

WHEREAS, these areas have an average annual household

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30 | income that is \$2,000 less per person than the counties in the
 31 | Appalachian Regional Commission or Delta Regional Authority, and
 32 | a per capita annual income that is \$5,000 less than the national
 33 | average, and

34 | WHEREAS, the economy of the rural areas and components of
 35 | the urbanized South are at risk because they lack an able
 36 | workforce and the tools with which to build wealth, and

37 | WHEREAS, the economic situation in the region will continue
 38 | to worsen unless the region gains the innate ability to produce
 39 | and sustain wealth through the creation of goods and services in
 40 | manufacturing, service, and agriculture, and

41 | WHEREAS, critical gaps exist in education, health, housing,
 42 | transportation, technology, and sewer and water infrastructure
 43 | in the region, and

44 | WHEREAS, despite its poverty, this region is not presently
 45 | served by a federally supported initiative similar to the
 46 | Appalachian Regional Commission, which has shown much success in
 47 | reducing economic distress through support for local job-
 48 | creation strategies and projects, and

49 | WHEREAS, there is clear evidence of the need for a new
 50 | partnership between the states and the Federal Government to
 51 | break the cycle of poverty through targeted, strategic support
 52 | for local job-creation activities, NOW, THEREFORE,

53 |
 54 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
 55 | Florida:

56 |
 57 | That the House of Representatives supports the creation of
 58 | the Southeast Crescent Authority, or a similar regional entity,

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59 | as reflected in pending Congressional legislation.

60 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this body pledges to work to
61 | strengthen efforts in sharing information and to ensure that the
62 | full participation of all residents of this region in the
63 | workforce remains a priority.