

House Resolution 1050

By: Representatives Smith of the 70th, England of the 116th, Rich of the 97th, Pirkle of the 155th, and Greene of the 151st

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commemorating the outstanding advancements in water conservation that
2 have been made by the Atlanta metro region and all Georgians; urging continued initiatives
3 for water conservation; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the Atlanta metro region has made outstanding achievements over the past 20
5 years that have contributed to making Georgia a model for water stewardship while also
6 promoting opportunities for economic and employment growth and community development
7 throughout the state; and

8 WHEREAS, the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District was created by the
9 Georgia General Assembly and Governor Barnes in 2001, includes 15 metro Atlanta counties
10 and 95 cities, and is home to nearly half of the state's residents; and

11 WHEREAS, the Atlanta metro region is the only major metropolitan area in the country with
12 more than 100 jurisdictions implementing a long-term comprehensive water management
13 program that is required, enforced, and supported by education efforts and locally authorized
14 fixture rebate programs encouraged by the district, which allow for increased efficiencies of
15 our precious water resources; and

16 WHEREAS, the implementation of numerous successful water efficiency projects inside
17 homes and businesses continues to show per capita water use has dropped by more than 10
18 percent despite a population increase of more than one million; and

19 WHEREAS, the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District has implemented and
20 constantly maintains one of the most comprehensive regional water management plans in the
21 country, covering water supply and conservation, watershed protection, wastewater
22 management, and public education and outreach activities, including facilitating two outreach
23 campaigns to educate the District's residents about conservation and water efficiency; and

24 WHEREAS, the District's Water Supply and Conservation Plan demonstrates the region's
25 commitment to making water conservation and protection a priority through the
26 implementation of a toilet rebate program that has replaced more than 120,000 inefficient
27 toilets, a tiered pricing that charges higher rates the more water is used to encourage
28 conservation, and advanced leak detection that has helped repair more than 23,000 leaks
29 since 2012; and

30 WHEREAS, success in water conservation never stops as innovation and science help
31 advance tools to improve stewardship efforts which is showcased by the development of
32 drought tolerant turfgrass, including the University of Georgia's development of a
33 bermudagrass that uses 38 percent less water than the commonly used bermudagrass and it
34 is grown in Georgia, which is helping to shape the future of saving water resources on home
35 lawns, sports fields, industrial sites, and golf courses; and

36 WHEREAS, the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District board added drought
37 tolerant turfgrass in their education resources to complement improved WaterSmart irrigation
38 technologies, such as soil moisture measurements, leading to greater landscape water

39 savings. Such education resources and planning guides are updated periodically to
40 emphasize these turfgrass and irrigation resources; and

41 WHEREAS, agricultural irrigation technologies have made great strides to increase
42 efficiencies through new application tools as well as remote variable rate irrigation
43 technology that allows for water to be applied only where and when it is needed by the plants
44 being irrigated; and

45 WHEREAS, the Georgia Water Planning and Policy Center provides crucial review of
46 agricultural water use data and documents the trends in irrigation application for various
47 crops, helping to shape current and future water use needs for farm commodities being
48 produced; and

49 WHEREAS, recent conservation and water efficiency endeavors and achievements have
50 been anchored in the state's commitment to comprehensive state-wide water planning, which
51 has guided and promoted a culture of water conservation and water use efficiency programs
52 and innovation around the state through bipartisan cooperation, the development of a
53 State-wide Water Plan, the creation of Regional Water Planning Councils, and broad industry
54 and community support.

55 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
56 the members of this body recognize and commend the outstanding advancements in water
57 conservation that have been made by the Atlanta metro region and all Georgians.

58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body urge the fore-named entities
59 and all Georgians to continue the work of saving water resources for our growing
60 communities, strong agricultural industry, and growing state-wide economy.

61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
62 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
63 public and the press.