

House Resolution 318

By: Representatives Stephens of the 164th and Smyre of the 135th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending SK Innovation's long-term investment as the largest foreign
2 direct investment project in Georgia's history with the aim to become one of the largest hubs
3 of electric vehicle battery manufacturing in the world; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, SK Innovation is investing \$2.58 billion to construct a two million square foot
5 manufacturing facility in the City of Commerce in Jackson County, which will employ 2,600
6 Georgia workers with high-wage jobs to manufacture electric vehicle (EV) batteries solely
7 for the United States market; and

8 WHEREAS, SK Innovation's commitment to produce EV batteries in Georgia helped secure
9 EV battery supply contracts with Volkswagen and Ford, including for the all-electric model
10 of Ford's flagship vehicle, the F-150 pickup truck; and

11 WHEREAS, SK Innovation's Georgia factory is essential for the United States to build a
12 competitive edge in EV battery production and supply chain, and it will be able to provide
13 EV batteries for more than 330,000 EVs a year, representing nearly a 25 percent increase in
14 United States EV battery manufacturing capacity; and

15 WHEREAS, SK Innovation plans to invest a total of \$5 billion by 2025 to expand the
16 facility, creating a total of 6,000 high-paying jobs; and

17 WHEREAS, the first SK Battery America plant is scheduled to begin initial operations in
18 2021 with mass production in 2022, and a second plant at the same site is expected to begin
19 mass production in 2023; and

20 WHEREAS, SK Battery America employees are learning battery technology through job
21 training programs partnered with local specialists such as Georgia Quick Start, an
22 internationally acclaimed economic development program that provides customized
23 workforce training at no cost to qualified businesses in Georgia and has trained more than
24 1.25 million workers through nearly 7,000 projects since 1967; and

25 WHEREAS, the new jobs that will be created in Jackson County include a range of technical
26 roles from production operators to senior engineers with a focus on manufacturing highly
27 sophisticated lithium-ion battery cells at scale; and

28 WHEREAS, Commissioner Pat Wilson of the Georgia Department of Economic
29 Development has stated that "the electric vehicle battery plant underway in Commerce will
30 put Georgia in the driver's seat for the next era of the auto industry and ensure our economy
31 keeps growing at a time when we need jobs most"; and

32 WHEREAS, Commerce Mayor Clark Hill stated that "this is a transformational economic
33 development project that will fuel new job opportunities for our region, spur more spending
34 across Jackson County, and establish Commerce as a center for innovation in a fast-growing
35 part of the economy"; and

36 WHEREAS, SK Innovation CEO Jun Kim stated, "We are working with a variety of partners
37 and local academic institutions to train and recruit new workers that will help us achieve a
38 competitive advantage in the EV industry, and we look forward to continuing to work
39 together with Georgia and Jackson County to establish a world-class center of excellence in
40 EV battery production"; and

41 WHEREAS, following the February 10, 2021, ruling by the United States International Trade
42 Commission (ITC), Governor Brian P. Kemp noted that "without presidential action, the
43 long-term prospects of SK Innovation's \$2.6 billion electric vehicle battery production
44 facility in Jackson County, Georgia, would be harmed significantly" and that "following the
45 ITC's order, there is a 60 day window for presidential review during which time the Biden
46 administration may overturn the findings that would affect SK, along with its customers,
47 Ford and Volkswagen"; and

48 WHEREAS, Governor Brian P. Kemp further noted that the ITC's ruling puts "SK's
49 significant investment in 2,600 clean energy jobs and innovative manufacturing in peril
50 during a pandemic that has created unprecedented challenges and hardship for countless
51 families here in Georgia and across the country"; and

52 WHEREAS, Governor Brian P. Kemp has urged President Joseph R. Biden Jr. to overturn
53 the ITC ruling, further stating, "I sincerely hope Georgia's congressional delegation will join
54 me in advocating for swift presidential action."

55 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
56 the members of this body recognize and commend SK Innovation's long-term investment in
57 Georgia and call upon President Joseph R. Biden Jr. to overturn the United States

58 International Trade Commission ruling on February 10, 2021, in order to protect the United
59 States' competitive edge in electric vehicle battery production and supply chain.

60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
61 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
62 President of the United States and the United States Congressional Delegation from the State
63 of Georgia.