

House Resolution 419

By: Representatives Sims of the 123<sup>rd</sup>, Frazier of the 126<sup>th</sup>, Howard of the 124<sup>th</sup>, Prince of the 127<sup>th</sup>, and Smith of the 125<sup>th</sup>

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging the United States Congress to extend authorization for the Augusta Canal  
2 National Heritage Area to receive federal funding from the National Park Service through  
3 2021; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the Augusta Canal Authority was created by an Act of the General Assembly  
5 of Georgia in 1989; and

6 WHEREAS, the Augusta Canal is the best surviving example of an intact 19th century  
7 industrial canal system still in use for its original purposes; and

8 WHEREAS, the Augusta Canal was the first, and currently the only, designated Regionally  
9 Important Resource under the Georgia Planning Act of 1989; and

10 WHEREAS, Director Jon Jarvis of the National Park Service has stated, "National Heritage  
11 Areas are places where small federal investments pay huge dividends, providing  
12 demonstrable benefits in communities across the country in partnership with our National  
13 Parks"; and

14 WHEREAS, the Augusta Canal Authority was presented the Tourism Champion Award for  
15 Product Development by Governor Nathan Deal at the 2011 Georgia Governor's Tourism  
16 Conference; and

17 WHEREAS, in recognition of its state and national significance, the 104th Congress of the  
18 United States designated the Augusta Canal as a National Heritage Area under the Omnibus  
19 Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996; and

20 WHEREAS, an evaluation by the National Park Service has confirmed that the Augusta  
21 Canal National Heritage Area has met its congressional mandate of preservation,

22 conservation, education, interpretation, recreation, and economic development and has  
23 leveraged each federal dollar by over four-fold; and

24 WHEREAS, the authorization to receive federal funding through the National Park Service  
25 for the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area will expire on September 30, 2015; and

26 WHEREAS, thirteen other National Heritage Areas with the same expiration date of  
27 September 30, 2015, received an extension until 2021 under the National Defense  
28 Appropriation Act of 2014; and

29 WHEREAS, the failure to extend the authorization to receive National Park Service funds  
30 appropriated by Congress will adversely impact the Authority's mission to protect and  
31 develop the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area and contribute to the economic  
32 development of the State of Georgia.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
34 GEORGIA that the members of this body encourage the United States Congress to extend  
35 authorization for the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area to receive funding from the  
36 National Park Service through 2021.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
38 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to United  
39 States Senator Johnny Isakson, United States Senator David Perdue, United States  
40 Representative Richard Allen, and Augusta Canal Authority Chairman Richard Isdell.