



# JOHNNY ISAKSON

UNITED STATES SENATOR · GEORGIA



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Isakson Announces Recommendations for Water Resources Development Act

**WASHINGTON** – U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., today announced his recommendation of Georgia projects to be authorized in the next Water Resources Development Act. Isakson believes these are critical water infrastructure projects for Georgia.

The Water Resources Development Act authorizes projects for funding but does not appropriate any federal dollars for them. Any project authorized under this Act will receive funding only if Congress later decides separately to appropriate federal dollars for it in the appropriations process.

Isakson's requests are listed in alphabetical order.

### **Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River system, to update water control manual**

This authorization would update the Army Corps of Engineers' existing Water Control Manual on the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River system to include reallocation of storage to meet current and future municipal and industrial water supply needs.

### **City of Atlanta, to improve surface water quality, \$45 million**

The wastewater collection, conveyance and treatment system in Atlanta, Ga., consists of approximately 2,000 miles of sanitary and combined sewers, seven combined sewer overflow treatment plants and other facilities, much of which was originally built in the 19th Century and is still in use today. Excessive overflows from the combined sewer system, coupled with sanitary sewer overflows and leaks in the separated area, are seriously impacting metro Atlanta regional water quality. Continued rapid growth in the metropolitan area and the daily influx of commuters from surrounding areas into the city exacerbate the adverse impact.

This environmental infrastructure project will improve surface water quality by providing combined sewer diversion and inflow infrastructure to capture more storm water and sewage flows in the City of Atlanta.

### **Guidance to the Army Corps of Engineers on return flow credits.**

Language requested: (A) *"IN GENERAL.— At the request of a State in which a federal reservoir operated by the Corps of Engineers is located, the Army shall calculate the total withdrawals of a non-Federal entity by subtracting any return flows from the non-Federal entity's withdrawals."*

*(B) the term “return flow” means a discharge that flows directly or indirectly into a reservoir from a wastewater or water supply system in accordance with applicable law.*

*EXCLUSION.—The term does not include a discharge of stormwater that would have flowed into the reservoir in the absence of the discharge by the non-Federal entity.*

### **Lake Sidney Lanier and Allatoona Lake, authorization for water supply**

*Language Requested: The Secretary of the Army is authorized and directed to operate the Buford Dam/Lake Sidney Lanier Project and the Allatoona Dam and Reservoir Project for the purpose of municipal and industrial water supply and to include storage in such projects for water supply notwithstanding the limitations of Section 390b(d) of the Water Supply Act, 43 U.S.C. § 390b(d), provided that the non-Federal sponsor of such water supply storage pays the cost for the capital investment for reallocated storage space in accordance with procedures developed by the Corps of Engineers.*

### **Savannah Harbor Expansion Project, to classify the project as a new start**

Although the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project in Savannah, Ga., has received construction funding in the two previous years, the Corps of Engineers does not accept that the project has been classified as a Construction New Start. This presents complications with future budget planning within the Corps and hinders the ability of the Corps to use Construction funds for work on the project.

*Language requested: The Savannah Harbor Expansion Project, Chatham County, Georgia and Jasper County, South Carolina, authorized by Section 101(b)(9), Public Law 106-53, will be a Construction new start.*

### **Savannah Harbor Expansion Project, to increase the authorized project cost from \$230,174,000 to \$628,807,708.00**

The Savannah Harbor Expansion Project in Savannah, Ga., was authorized by Congress in WRDA 1999 with an authorized project cost of \$230,174,000. The Section 902 limit, or the maximum amount that can be spent on the project, is based on the authorized project cost and determined by a formula set by the Office of Management and Budget. The Corps recently updated the Section 902 Limit to current costs with inflation which equated to \$473,537,922.

While the project has not yet exceeded the current Section 902 limit of \$473,537,922, the most recent cost estimates for the total project cost exceed this amount. The estimated total project cost is now approximately \$629 million, which includes the project studies, construction, mitigation and adaptive management costs.

*Language requested: The project for harbor deepening, Savannah Harbor Expansion, Chatham County, Georgia and Jasper County, South Carolina, authorized by Section 101(b)(9), Public Law 106-53, is modified to authorize the Secretary to construct the project at a total cost of \$628,807,708 with and estimated Federal cost of \$423,187,587 and an estimated non-Federal cost of \$205,620,121.*

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