

The primary interest of the people of Georgia in an Area Redevelopment Act would be in the rural-small urban phase. Otherwise, it would hold little benefit for us. However, we recognize the overall merits of the bill, including assistance for major industrial areas with declining economy.

Respectfully submitted.

W. ELMER GEORGE,
Executive Director,
Georgia Municipal Association.

RESOLUTION ON AREA REDEVELOPMENT BILLS ADOPTED BY CONFERENCE OF SOUTHERN STATE MUNICIPAL LEAGUES AND CITIES, JUNE 12-13, 1959, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Whereas the Conference of Southern State Municipal Leagues and municipal officials, sponsored jointly by the American Municipal Association, has considered the enormous benefits to States and communities in the southeastern United States of the area redevelopment bill approved by the Senate (S. 722) and under consideration in the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress; and

Whereas S. 722 provides \$389.5 million of loans and grants to foster industrial growth, with one-half of the funds earmarked for underdeveloped rural areas and one-half for large industrial centers with chronic unemployment; and

Whereas 65 percent of the total loans and grants authorized by the bill will be available to southern communities in 628 underdeveloped rural counties and to 53 southern cities with excessive unemployment; and

Whereas the depressed areas legislation proposed by the President (H.R. 4278), discriminates against the South by eliminating all assistance to rural areas, 94 percent of which are located in the South; and

Whereas the provisions of S. 722 will accelerate the balancing of industry with agriculture in depressed rural areas, thereby reducing the enormously costly emigration of population and affording permanent relief from the billions of dollars of annual subsidies now poured into rural areas to support farm income: Be it

Resolved, That the Conference of Southern State Municipal Leagues and Cities urges the Members of Congress for the South to support a sound area redevelopment bill and oppose the proposal of the President and others (H.R. 4278) which discriminates against the South by eliminating all assistance to depressed rural areas;

Resolved further, That a copy of this resolution and the statement of fact adopted by this conference be transmitted to all Members of Congress from the Southeast and to the mayors of some 2,000 southern communities which would benefit from the provisions of S. 722.

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE ON AREA REDEVELOPMENT BILLS SPONSORED BY SOUTHERN STATE MUNICIPAL LEAGUES AND CITIES AND THE AMERICAN MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

Statement of fact—Area redevelopment legislation (S. 722) and the South. Under area redevelopment bills before the Congress, the South will receive a major share of the benefits to be made available: 628 out of the 663 eligible counties for rural benefits are in the South: 94 percent of rural funds will go to the South; 53 out of the 179 urban distressed labor markets are in the South (more complete surveys would increase this number); Southern States will be eligible for more than 65 percent of House bill \$251 million appropriation.

BENEFITS UNDER THE BILL TO "REDEVELOPMENT AREAS"

Technical assistance, \$4.5 million (annual appropriation); public facilities grants, \$35 million; loans, \$50 million (revolving fund); industrial loans (rural areas), \$75 million (revolving fund), (urban areas) \$75 million (revolving fund); vocational training grants, \$1.5 million (annual appropriation); retraining subsistence payments, \$10 million.

DEFINITIONS OF REDEVELOPMENT AREAS ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS

Rural areas.—Counties with the largest number and percentage of low-income families and a condition of substantial and persistent unemployment or underemployment. These shall include counties among the 500 ranked lowest in the