

RESOLUTION
R 210-10/11

*Opposition to H.B. 104, Proposed Amendments to the
Alabama Underwater Cultural Resources Act*

WHEREAS, history is important to both the past and the future of the people of Selma and the protection of our historic resources is important to our city and has long been protected by city ordinances; and

WHEREAS, when it was discovered that historic resources in the Alabama River were being plundered and removed from the jurisdiction, the Mayor and the Selma City Council took steps to stop these actions; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Underwater Cultural Resources Act, implemented in 2006, requires that any exploration or excavation of underwater cultural resources, or any recreational diving related to cultural resources, must receive a permit from the Alabama Historical Commission. Any theft or disturbance of these resources is currently subject to criminal penalties; and

WHEREAS, a bill before the Alabama Senate (H.B. 104) would amend the Underwater Cultural Resources Act and would drastically limit its effectiveness in preserving underwater archaeological resources within the states waterways by opening the door to widespread looting and undocumented mining and recovery of Civil War, Native American and Early American artifacts from Alabama waters and allowing artifacts to be legally recovered and transported out of Alabama and sold; and

WHEREAS, the interests of the City of Selma are not served by H.B. 104 as all historic sites with any underwater component such as Fort Morgan, Blakely, Africa Town and Selma will be unprotected. Alabama law prohibits the cutting of trees, mining of coal or digging of artifacts without a permit on state-owned lands. State waters deserve the same level of protection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Mayor George Patrick Evans and the Selma City Council wish to go on record as opposing H.B. 104 and urge all members of the Senate Rules Committee to vote against it.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SELMA, ALABAMA,
on this the 31st day of May, 2011.

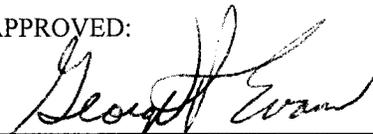


COREY BOWIE, President Pro Tempore

ATTEST:



IVY S. HARRISON, City Clerk

APPROVED:


GEORGE EVANS, Mayor