

Senate Resolution 7

By: Senators Cheeks of the 23rd, Gillis of the 20th, Hill of the 4th and Ragan of the 11th

A RESOLUTION

1 Strongly urging the United States Congress and the United States International Trade
2 Representative to recognize the economic and environmental benefits of Georgia's
3 magnificent forest resources; strongly urging that the Congress and the United States Trade
4 Representative not rescind the international trade agreement limiting the amount of
5 subsidized Canadian lumber imported duty-free into the United States; and for other
6 purposes.

7 WHEREAS, Georgia has a rich natural resource heritage and has been blessed with bountiful
8 forests; and

9 WHEREAS, these forests cover two-thirds of Georgia and provide many benefits and
10 services; and

11 WHEREAS, Georgians have relied on their forest resources for hundreds of years to provide
12 shelter, sustenance, forest products, employment, and other economic benefits; and

13 WHEREAS, Georgia's forests also significantly contribute to our quality of life by providing
14 clean water, clean air, rich soil, wildlife, and aesthetic and recreational benefits, all of which
15 are irreplaceable; and

16 WHEREAS, forestry is the largest single economic contributor to Georgia's thriving
17 economy with over \$17 billion in total value added to the economy each year since 1996, and
18 the forest products industry, through its own initiative, is working to sustain and enhance this
19 contribution through the Sustainable Forestry Initiative; and

20 WHEREAS, hundreds of Georgia businesses including sawmills, other wood processing
21 plants, independent logging contractors, and hundreds of thousands of private Georgia forest
22 landowners have been adversely affected by imports of subsidized Canadian lumber; and

1 WHEREAS, over 170,000 Georgians are employed in forestry operations; and

2 WHEREAS, almost 70 percent of Georgia's timberland base is owned by over 600,000
3 private property owners; and

4 WHEREAS, in recent years, Georgia's timber resources have been able to exert their rightful
5 place in the national and international marketplace with the shutdown of logging on federal
6 lands in the Pacific Northwest; and

7 WHEREAS, this increase in product value has proven of immense benefit to Georgia's
8 economy; and

9 WHEREAS, recent proposals to allow a renewal of the flood of subsidized, price depressing
10 imports from outside the United States is a direct threat to the well-being of thousands of
11 Georgians.

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
13 urge the United States Congress and the United States International Trade Representative not
14 to rescind the international trade agreement limiting the amount of subsidized Canadian
15 lumber imported into the United States duty-free.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
17 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the United States Congress, the United
18 States International Trade Representative, the Georgia Forestry Association, the Georgia
19 Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Southeastern Wood Producers Association, the Georgia
20 Agribusiness Council, the Campaign For A Prosperous Georgia, and the capitol press corps.