

House Resolution 92

By: Representative Floyd of the 147th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 1, 2007, as "Forestry Day at the Capitol" and inviting certain officials
2 of the Georgia Forestry Association to appear before the House of Representatives; and for
3 other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the Georgia Forestry Association (GFA), founded in 1907, is celebrating its
5 100th year of service to the state and a vast community of forest landowners, businesses, and
6 forestry professionals; and

7 WHEREAS, the Georgia Forestry Association is one of the oldest conservation organizations
8 in the United States; and through the years GFA has worked with landowners in protecting
9 their property rights and adopting sound land management practices to ensure that our forests
10 are managed in a sustainable manner and continue to provide clean air, clean water, soil
11 conservation, wildlife habitat, beauty and recreational opportunities; and

12 WHEREAS, forestry is a leading industry in this state, creating more than 150,000 jobs and
13 having a \$25 billion annual economic impact; and

14 WHEREAS, Georgia's 24 million total acres of forests represent the major land use in the
15 state, occupying two-thirds of Georgia's total land area of 37 million acres; and

16 WHEREAS, ninety-two percent of Georgia's forestland—more than that of any other state—is
17 owned by thousands of private landowners; and

18 WHEREAS, timber is the highest valued crop in this state, and Georgia remains one of the
19 top pulp and paper producing states in the nation; and

20 WHEREAS, Georgia's forests are not only economically important but also provide vital
21 environmental, educational, and social benefits and hold the potential to make Georgia a

1 leader in the production of renewable fuels and nature tourism, including hiking, birding,
2 camping, and hunting; and

3 WHEREAS, the Georgia Forestry Association is the sponsoring organization for the
4 Sustainable Forestry Initiative and thus promotes best management practices for forestry,
5 responsible wood procurement practices, wildlife habitat enhancement and educational
6 outreach to Georgia's forest landowners; and

7 WHEREAS, it is only fitting and proper that the significant contributions of this industry and
8 organization to the welfare of this state be recognized.

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
10 the members of this body recognize February 1, 2007, as "Forestry Day at the Capitol" in
11 honor of the significant contributions made to the welfare of this state by forestry and the
12 Georgia Forestry Association and invite president Earl Smith and executive director Steve
13 McWilliams of the Georgia Forestry Association to appear before the House on such date
14 and at such time as designated by the Speaker of the House.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
16 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Forestry
17 Association.