

House Resolution 887

By: Representative Benfield of the 85th

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Georgia Department of Agriculture to ban the production, use, and sale of plants
2 listed on the National Park Service Alien Plant Invaders list; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, invasive nonnative organisms are one of the greatest threats to the natural
4 ecosystems of the United States and are destroying America's natural history and identity;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, an invasive plant is a nonnative plant species usually transported from other
7 countries around the world but may also include species moved from one locality in the
8 United States to a new one, and upon being relocated, an invasive plant displays rapid growth
9 and spread, allowing it to establish itself over large areas; and

10 WHEREAS, the phenomenal growth of invasive plants allows them to overwhelm and
11 displace existing native plant species, wiping out the natural vegetation and replacing it with
12 a large, dense one-species stand of the foreign plant; and

13 WHEREAS, this process upsets the natural ecological balance and exacerbates the negative
14 impact that is created by manmade destruction of the environment; and

15 WHEREAS, there are currently 60 plant species listed on the National Park Service Alien
16 Plant Invaders list as published by the Plant Conservation Alliance's Alien Plant Working
17 Group; and

18 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Agriculture is in a position to regulate the use of
19 invasive exotic species and prohibit the production, sale, and use of such plant invaders in
20 landscaping, land restoration, and erosion control, particularly by governmental entities; and

1 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Agriculture is best able to act responsibly to educate
2 the public regarding the negative impact of plant invaders upon our natural resources and to
3 urge Georgians to use noninvasive plants native to their local region.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
5 the members of this body urge the Georgia Department of Agriculture to educate Georgians
6 regarding the negative impact of plant invaders, to encourage our citizens to use noninvasive
7 plants native to their local region for landscaping, and to regulate the use and sale of plant
8 invaders by banning or restricting the production, use, and sale of plants listed on the
9 National Park Service Alien Plant Invaders list.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
11 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Commissioner of the
12 Georgia Department of Agriculture and to the Governor.