

House Resolution 2244

By: Representative Ralston of the 7<sup>th</sup>

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the United States Congress to designate the Mountaintown area of the Chattahoochee  
2 National Forest in Gilmer County, Georgia, as a National Wilderness area; and for other  
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the Mountaintown area is roughly 13,000 acres of steep and difficult to traverse  
5 land that serves as the headwaters for Mountaintown Creek, one of Georgia's premiere trout  
6 streams; and

7 WHEREAS, the residents of Gilmer County have a long-standing tradition of using the  
8 Mountaintown area for fishing and hunting, while the area also attracts visitors from around  
9 the state and country for recreation; and

10 WHEREAS, the present and future economic health of Gilmer County is derived from the  
11 county's ability to attract visitors and tourists to the beautiful mountain community; and

12 WHEREAS, the present and future physical health of the citizens of Gilmer County and  
13 visitors to the area is directly linked to clean water and air from local mountain watersheds;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, economic and physical health are inseparable from the protection of Gilmer  
16 County's surrounding mountains, forests, and streams; and

17 WHEREAS, areas which have been open to hunting, fishing, and hiking in the past are  
18 rapidly being developed for new homes, roads, and businesses, shifting these outdoor  
19 activities to National Forest lands; and

20 WHEREAS, the lands which presently belong to the people and lie within the Chattahoochee  
21 National Forest in Gilmer County should be protected from encroachment from future  
22 development by permanently designating these areas as a National Wilderness area; and

23 WHEREAS, areas that have been deemed most appropriate for National Wilderness area  
24 classification by the National Forest Service have been inventoried roadless areas; and

25 WHEREAS, the Mountaintown area of the Chattahoochee National Forest in Gilmer County  
26 is appropriate for designation as a National Wilderness area because it has few roads, soaring  
27 forested mountain peaks, and clear running trout streams.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
29 the members of this body urge the United States Congress to designate the Mountaintown  
30 area of the Chattahoochee National Forest in Gilmer County, Georgia, as a National  
31 Wilderness area.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
33 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to each member of the Georgia  
34 congressional delegation.