

## House Resolution 247

By: Representatives Cole of the 125<sup>th</sup>, Burns of the 157<sup>th</sup>, Smith of the 129<sup>th</sup>, Black of the 174<sup>th</sup>, O`Neal of the 146<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing February 5, 2009, as "Forestry Day at the Capitol"; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the Georgia Forestry Association (GFA), founded in 1907, has provided 102  
3 years of service to the state and to a vast community of forest landowners, businesses, and  
4 forestry professionals; and
- 5 WHEREAS, the Georgia Forestry Association is one of the oldest conservation organizations  
6 in the United States, and through the years GFA has worked with landowners in protecting  
7 their property rights and adopting sound land management practices to ensure that our forests  
8 are managed in a sustainable manner and continue to provide clean air, clean water, soil  
9 conservation, wildlife habitat, beauty, and recreational opportunities; and
- 10 WHEREAS, forestry is a leading industry in this state, creating more than 150,000 jobs and  
11 having a \$25 billion annual economic impact in this state; and
- 12 WHEREAS, Georgia's 24 million total acres of forests represent the major land use in the  
13 state, occupying two-thirds of Georgia's total land area of 37 million acres; and
- 14 WHEREAS, 92 percent of Georgia's forestland is owned by private landowners, more than  
15 in any other state; and
- 16 WHEREAS, timber is the highest value crop in this state, and Georgia remains one of the top  
17 pulp and paper producing states in the nation; and
- 18 WHEREAS, Georgia's forests are not only economically important but also provide vital  
19 environmental, educational, and social benefits and hold the potential to make Georgia a  
20 leader in the production of renewable fuels and nature tourism, including hiking, birding,  
21 camping, and hunting; and

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

26 WHEREAS, it is only fitting and proper that the significant contributions made by the  
27 industry and organization to the welfare of this state be recognized.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
29 the members of this body recognize February 5, 2009, as "Forestry Day at the Capitol" in  
30 honor of the significant contributions made to the welfare of this state by forestry and the  
31 Georgia Forestry Association.

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