

Senate Resolution 43

By: Senator Bulloch of the 11th

A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting the United States Department of Agriculture to deregulate biotech alfalfa, and
2 other future products, based on science and without conditions; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, United States and Georgia agriculture has an impressive track record of
4 successfully addressing the economic and market-based issues associated with coexistence,
5 whether neighbor-to-neighbor or through state seed certifying agencies or other local, state,
6 or regional initiatives; and

7 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has indicated that it may
8 deregulate biotech alfalfa with certain conditions in an effort to protect organic growers'
9 claims of potential harm; and

10 WHEREAS, the American Farm Bureau and several other grower-based organizations
11 strongly believe that such a conditional deregulation is not science-based, and would restrict
12 or even eliminate the use of a valuable tool from growers in many parts of this country; and

13 WHEREAS, in the field of agricultural biotechnology, Georgia growers have worked closely
14 with the seed industry to meet their respective stewardship obligations through contractual
15 arrangements and other mechanisms, avenues in which matters of coexistence and
16 stewardship are addressed most effectively and efficiently; and

17 WHEREAS, the National Alfalfa and Forage Alliance (NAFA) developed its Best
18 Management Practices for Roundup Ready Alfalfa Seed Production in 2008 and has also
19 taken the lead in providing coexistence documents for alfalfa hay export markets, alfalfa seed
20 export markets, and organic alfalfa seed and hay markets; and

21 WHEREAS, issues of coexistence are always best dealt with farmer-to-farmer, and any
22 proposals to change United States government policy on agricultural biotechnology

23 regulation must be done through a thoughtful dialogue inclusive of all United States
24 government agencies.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
26 request that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Department of Agriculture make regulatory
27 decisions based on sound science and deregulate genetically engineered alfalfa without any
28 conditions as soon as possible to enable America's alfalfa farmers to have access to
29 genetically engineered alfalfa seeds in time for the spring planting season.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
31 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the United States Secretary of Agriculture,
32 the Georgia delegation of the United States Congress, and the Georgia Commissioner of
33 Agriculture.