

House Resolution 1562

By: Representatives Taylor of the 173rd, Carter of the 175th, McCall of the 30th, Roberts of the 154th, Burns of the 157th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging Congress to expand the eligibility requirements of the H-2A guest worker program;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia's agricultural industry continues to shine as this state's top economic
4 driver; and

5 WHEREAS, Georgia has almost 48,000 farms consisting of over 10 million acres, but
6 farmers make up only a small fraction of the thousands of Georgians who earn a living in
7 agriculture and agribusiness; and

8 WHEREAS, agricultural business in Georgia is estimated to bring in \$68 billion; and

9 WHEREAS, Georgia's agriculture industry is the primary source of employment in this state,
10 with one in seven employed in agriculture, forestry, or other related field, including
11 processing, shipping, retail, agricultural dealers and suppliers, and tourism; and

12 WHEREAS, the H-2A guest worker program is only available to producers with work needs
13 of a temporary or seasonal nature, but due to the year-round nature of some industries within
14 agriculture, this provision prohibits these, specifically the dairy, poultry, livestock, and
15 ginning industries, from being eligible; and

16 WHEREAS, the H-2A program is currently administered by the United States Department
17 of Labor; and

18 WHEREAS, the current program under the United States Department of Labor is
19 inefficiently run, and there is currently federal legislation in the House that better places the
20 program within the United States Department of Agriculture; and

21 WHEREAS, building on successes of existing state and federal partnerships, State
22 Departments of Agriculture should be considered as cooperating partners in the
23 administration of a federal guest worker program.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
25 the members of this body urge Congress to allow states to administer their own H-2A guest
26 worker programs through the monitoring of the United States Department of Agriculture.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
28 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Congress.