

House Resolution 1672

By: Representatives Taylor of the 173rd, Carter of the 175th, McCall of the 30th, Roberts of the 154th, England of the 108th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging Congress to expand the eligibility and reduce the over regulation of the H-2A guest
2 worker program; 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 that
6 include many high value fruit and vegetable crops; livestock production from dairy, poultry,
7 beef, and other sectors; row crops, including cotton, peanuts, corn, and soybeans; and plant
8 materials used in urban agriculture such as turf grass and ornamentals; and

9 WHEREAS, agricultural business in Georgia is estimated to bring in a \$68.9 billion
10 economic impact to Georgia in 2012; and

11 WHEREAS, Georgia's agriculture industry is the primary source of employment in this state,
12 with one in seven workers employed in agriculture, forestry, or other related fields, including
13 processing, shipping, retail, agricultural dealers and suppliers, and agritourism; and

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

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

20 WHEREAS, the current program under the United States Department of Labor is
21 inefficiently run, and there is currently federal legislation in the Congress that more
22 appropriately places the program within the United States Department of Agriculture.

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
24 the members of this body urge Congress to pass agricultural guest worker reform legislation
25 that expands agribusiness access and addresses the reliability, cost effectiveness, and
26 availability of the H-2A guest worker program.

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.