

House Resolution 1724

By: Representatives Williams of the 119th, Houston of the 170th, Nimmer of the 178th, Smith of the 70th, and Buckner of the 137th

A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging state-wide support for sustainable forest certification and supporting the efforts
2 of Sustainable Forestry Initiative; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the majority of Georgia's total acreage is forestland, and this state leads the
4 nation in commercially available, privately owned timberlands; and

5 WHEREAS, more than half of Georgia's counties have at least one primary wood-using mill;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, active and viable forest product markets are the most significant and necessary
8 condition to ensure forest landowners are able to maintain forestlands; and

9 WHEREAS, Georgia's forests are being sustainably managed, primarily by thousands of
10 family forest owners and timber growers, to meet the numerous environmental and economic
11 needs of the State of Georgia; and

12 WHEREAS, the global demand for certified products has increased due to corporate
13 environmental responsibility, green building standards, and government regulation; and

14 WHEREAS, the use of wood originating from well-managed forests is prudent, and Georgia
15 forest landowners and forest product manufacturers benefit from access to certified product
16 markets where the adoption of these systems occur; and

17 WHEREAS, Georgia should support initiatives that foster cost-efficient and ecologically
18 responsible sustainable forest management certification, which strengthens this state's
19 competitive advantage in global trade and commerce; and

20 WHEREAS, certification to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard provides a
21 trustworthy and internationally recognized assurance to the marketplace that timber sources
22 are managed and harvested in an environmentally responsible way; and

23 WHEREAS, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative program recognizes wood certified under the
24 American Tree Farm System, which promotes comparable assurances of sustainable forest
25 management for family forest owners; and

26 WHEREAS, Georgia is a national leader in the growing and processing of wood products
27 that are certified under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and the American Tree Farm
28 System; and

29 WHEREAS, the SFI Forest Partners Program seeks to expand opportunities for smaller and
30 medium-sized mills and forest ownerships to undertake coordinated certification for cost
31 savings and to influence responsible forestry beyond those lands through expanded fiber
32 sourcing certification.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
34 the members of this body support and encourage the Sustainable Forestry Initiative's efforts
35 to increase the source of certified forestland and forest products through the SFI Forest
36 Partners Program.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
38 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the public and the press.