

House Resolution 452

By: Representatives Yearta of the 152nd, Chastain of the 7th, Gunter of the 8th, Williams of the 148th, Richardson of the 125th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Georgia Forestry Commission for serving the State of
2 Georgia as an emergency response agency; the Worth County Unit on being named the 2024
3 Unit of the Year for Service; the Fannin/Towns/Union Unit on being named the 2024 Unit
4 of the Year for Community Engagement; Clark Rountree for being named 2024 Wildland
5 Firefighter of the Year; and Kevin Lee for being named 2024 Forester of the Year; and for
6 other purposes.

7 WHEREAS, the Georgia Forestry Commission has worked diligently toward its mission "to
8 provide leadership, service, and education to protect and conserve Georgia's forest resources"
9 and its vision of "healthy and abundant forests that support a robust industry while providing
10 social, environmental, and financial benefits to all of Georgia" since 1921; and

11 WHEREAS, the Georgia Forestry Commission has protected Georgia's forests and citizens
12 from an average of 3,000 wildfires burning 18,500 acres per year and has responded to
13 historic wildfire events, including catastrophic fires in 2007, 2011, 2016, and 2017; and

14 WHEREAS, the Georgia Forestry Commission assists public and private landowners in the
15 established practice of prescribed burning to reduce hazardous fuels, protect communities

16 from extreme wildfires, minimize the spread of insects and diseases, and improve habitats
17 for threatened and endangered species; and

18 WHEREAS, employees of the Georgia Forestry Commission are trained to meet national
19 standards as Firefighter Type 1 and Firefighter Type 2 or are POST-certified law
20 enforcement officers, undergoing specific and rigorous training and assignments to maintain
21 qualifications to respond to wildfires and all-hazards incidents; and

22 WHEREAS, the Worth County Unit was selected as the Georgia Forestry Commission's
23 2024 Unit of the Year for Service due to its outstanding accomplishments in serving
24 landowners through firebreak plowing, prescribed burn assists, and other services; and

25 WHEREAS, the Fannin/Towns/Union Unit was selected as the Georgia Forestry
26 Commission's 2024 Unit of the Year for Community Engagement due to its exemplary
27 outreach efforts, including Smokey Bear programs, educational programs, and other
28 community initiatives; and

29 WHEREAS, Clark Rountree was selected as the Georgia Forestry Commission's 2024
30 Wildland Firefighter of the Year in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments in all
31 areas of wildfire mitigation and suppression; and

32 WHEREAS, Kevin Lee was selected as the Georgia Forestry Commission's 2024 Forester
33 of the Year in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments in all areas of forest
34 management; and

35 WHEREAS, employees of the Georgia Forestry Commission serve the citizens of the State
36 of Georgia with dedication, heart, and determination, ensuring the safeguarding of

37 communities as well as the protection and conservation of our forest resources for the next
38 generation.

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
40 the members of this body recognize the Georgia Forestry Commission as an emergency
41 response agency.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body commend the Worth County
43 Unit, the Fannin/Towns/Union Unit, Clark Rountree, and Kevin Lee for their outstanding
44 achievements and recognition as the 2024 Unit of the Year for Service, Unit of the Year for
45 Community Engagement, Wildland Firefighter of the Year, and Forester of the Year.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
47 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to State
48 Forester John Sabo.