

## House Resolution 824

By: Representatives Smith of the 138<sup>th</sup>, Smith of the 70<sup>th</sup>, Cannon of the 172<sup>nd</sup>, Buckner of the 137<sup>th</sup>, and Huddleston of the 72<sup>nd</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the acute and ongoing threat to Georgia's forests posed by the southern pine  
2 beetle, particularly in the western region of this state, and encouraging all Georgia  
3 landowners to follow guidance by the Georgia Forestry Commission to mitigate the spread  
4 of this destructive pest; and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, forestry is a vital economic driver for the State of Georgia, contributing more  
6 than \$41 billion annually to the state's economy and supporting thousands of jobs in rural  
7 communities; and

8 WHEREAS, Georgia's forests, particularly those that are properly managed, provide essential  
9 ecological, economic, and recreational benefits, including clean air and water, carbon  
10 sequestration, wildlife habitats, and raw materials for a variety of industries; and

11 WHEREAS, the southern pine beetle (*dendroctonus frontalis*) is a destructive native pest  
12 affecting pine forests in the southeastern United States, including Georgia; and

13 WHEREAS, southern pine beetle infestations can cause significant tree mortality, leading  
14 to economic losses for landowners, increased wildfire risk, and reduced forest health and  
15 productivity; and

16 WHEREAS, the western region of Georgia is currently experiencing a heightened outbreak  
17 of the southern pine beetle, resulting in extensive damage to pine stands and threatening the  
18 sustainability of the state's forest resources; and

19 WHEREAS, the Georgia Forestry Commission has provided critical guidance and resources  
20 to landowners to implement sound forestry practices that reduce the risk of infestation by the  
21 southern pine beetle and improve overall forest resilience; and

22 WHEREAS, thinning overcrowded stands, removing infested trees, and adhering to best  
23 management practices are the most effective means of controlling and preventing further  
24 spread of the southern pine beetle.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
26 the members of this body:

27 (1) Recognize the significant threat posed by the southern pine beetle to Georgia's  
28 forests;

29 (2) Recognize the acute and ongoing challenge of the southern pine beetle outbreak in  
30 the western region of this state; and

31 (3) Encourage Georgia landowners to take all steps necessary to mitigate the spread of  
32 this outbreak through proper forest management and adherence to best management  
33 practices outlined by the Georgia Forestry Commission.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
35 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the  
36 public and the press.