

Senate Resolution 870

By: Senators Miller of the 49th, Parent of the 42nd, Butler of the 55th and Ginn of the 47th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring TifTuf Bermudagrass, a drought-tolerant bermudagrass being grown by Georgia
2 farmers and others that is advancing outdoor water conservation for our growing state; and
3 for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the University of Georgia turfgrass research team developed the highly
5 acclaimed cultivar TifTuf, which is the most drought-tolerant bermudagrass on the market;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, TifTuf uses 38 percent less water and retains 95 percent more green leaf tissue
8 during drought stress when compared to the commonly used Tifway variety; and

9 WHEREAS, TifTuf Bermuda has been grown for just seven years on several farms in
10 Georgia and is widely available across the state and in the metro Atlanta area; and

11 WHEREAS, since TifTuf Bermuda went into production with just 10 acres in 2015, it has
12 now grown to more than 14,000 acres in production in the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, TifTuf Bermuda is also expanding rapidly in other countries as there are now
14 40 growers in Australia in addition to numerous other countries; and

15 WHEREAS, TifTuf Bermuda is the fastest warm season turfgrass to achieve the milestone
16 of one billion square feet sold and installed, which is the equivalent of about 250,000 homes;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, TifTuf Bermuda's milestone is a terrific achievement and showcases the
19 benefits of science-based advancements that enhance consumer options for improving water
20 conservation in landscapes and on recreation areas; and

21 WHEREAS, consumers will save precious water resources while experiencing reduced water
22 bills and enjoying excellent landscape aesthetics with this turfgrass; and

23 WHEREAS, the Metro North Georgia Water Planning District (MNGWPD) has begun
24 promoting the use of drought-tolerant turfgrasses, such as TifTuf Bermuda, as part of their
25 water conservation education initiatives.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
27 join in honoring the success of TifTuf Bermudagrass, the work of the University of Georgia's
28 turfgrass program, the many farms growing the sod, and the Metro North Georgia Water
29 Planning District's water conservation education initiatives as landscapes advance these
30 turfgrass cultivars to improve water savings in our lawns, parks, and recreation areas to help
31 us all be even better stewards of our water resources.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
33 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
34 press.