



## **EMINENT DOMAIN**

The Georgia Forestry Association supports restrictions on an agency of government from using the power of eminent domain without first establishing proof that there is a public need for the land and documenting that there is no alternative available. The Association also opposes the taking of land by eminent domain for recreational, environmental or private business purposes. GFA supports the position that landowners should be compensated for the value of their land and the timber resources on the land using both current and future values.

GFA supports legislation that requires those exercising eminent domain to make a good faith offer, and legislation that provides more adequate compensation to owners of property that is condemned which include royalty payments to the landowner. In addition, GFA supports legislation which returns to private ownership property acquired through condemnation for a stated purpose and not used for that purpose. GFA supports the position that the original landowner should be given the first option to re-purchase their property at the original sale price.

*Adopted: October 23, 2014*

## **PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS**

Ownership of private property is specifically protected in the Constitution of the United States. The Georgia Forestry Association is a strong supporter of private property rights and believes that local, state, federal and non-governmental organizations are increasingly imposing restrictions and regulations that threaten the sustainability of private working forests. The Association will oppose any efforts to restrict or encumber private forestlands without fair compensation. Landowners should be fairly compensated for land use restrictions, partial takings as well as full takings as provided for in the 5th Amendment of the Constitution. Respect for private property rights is fundamental to the best management of private forestlands.

*Adopted: October 23, 2014*

### **OUR MISSION:**

The Georgia Forestry Association is the leading advocate for a healthy business and political climate for Georgia's forest environment, forest landowners and forest-based businesses.

### **GEORGIA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION**

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