

Bug Bytes

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Issue 8, 3/11/10

I know everyone is eager to hear how the two hearings have progressed relative to the WDO Legislation

On Wednesday, the HOUSE Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee *finally* passed the Bill out of committee. It was a long day (with a 6 hour recess for the Committee in the middle of everything) but the conclusion was successful.

This morning (Thursday, March 11), the Senate Ag Committee did a hearing only. No vote was taken. We believe we saw sufficient support from members of the Senate Ag Committee to pass the legislation through their committee – but this is yet to be confirmed.

Here are some highlights from the past two days:

Scott Eubanks (GPCA President) and Rick Bell (Co-Chair GPCA Legislative Committee) testified before both committees explaining the reason that we were pursuing this legislation. They did a great job representing our industry and answering questions which were sometimes not too friendly.

MARKET BULLETIN – In this week's March 10 edition, a long feature story about the need for the WDO legislation appears. If you haven't seen the story, please go to this link:

<http://agr.georgia.gov/portal/site/AGR/menuitem.e429305ad2099d1d6eff626ed03036a0/?vgnextoid=169e002996347210VgnVCM10000bf01010aRCRD&vgnnextfmt=default>

Lynn Turner testifies – remember the log home with wood boring beetles? Ms. Turner testified today before the House Senate committee about the problems she has had because her realtor did not advise her to secure a WDO inspection.

Your industry was well represented during these Hearings which made a good impression on the elected officials. Additionally, Dr. James Sutton, Jim Harron and Derrick Lastinger as well as Assistant Commissioner Terry Coleman from the Department of Agriculture attended the hearings.

What happens next?

HOUSE – HB 1048 will go to the House Rules Committee. We need you to make calls to members of this committee asking for their support. Attached is a list of members on this committee.

SENATE – SB 417 - we are waiting for the final vote from the Senate Ag Committee. Once they have voted and we know that it will move to the Senate Rules Committee, we'll furnish you these names and phone numbers.

We can't thank you enough for all your effort to support this Legislation. The elected officials on both the Senate and House Ag Committees have heard from you and they understand the need for this legislation. Please keep up the good work.