THE STATE OF GEORGIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER

BY THE GOVERNOR:

WHEREAS: The State of Georgia is dedicated to the goals of energy efficiency, economic growth, and protection of the State's vast environmental resources; and

WHEREAS: Georgia's forests are being sustainably managed to meet the numerous environmental and economic needs of the State of Georgia, primarily by thousands of private tree farmers and timber growers; and

WHEREAS: The State leads the nation in commercially available privately-owned timberlands and its forested area has remained stable over the past fifty years at about 24 million acres; and

WHEREAS: The State should undertake initiatives that foster cost-efficient and ecologically responsible buildings; and

WHEREAS: Reducing long-term operations and maintenance costs is essential to the economic health of the State; and

WHEREAS: So-called "Green Building" standards have the potential to reduce waste in building; and

WHEREAS: Said standards have certain requirements on the harvest of natural construction materials but only some of the standards recognize equally several forest certification systems currently utilized in Georgia and North America; and

WHEREAS: Georgia is a national leader in the growing and processing of wood construction materials that are certified under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and the American Tree Farm System; and

WHEREAS: The U.S. Green Building Council's LEED rating system unfairly awards its wood certification credits only to products certified to the Forest Stewardship Council standard; and

WHEREAS: Recognizing all forest certifications equally will help promote sustainable forestry in the State of Georgia and help create thousands of jobs while maintaining our strong outdoor heritage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BY VIRTUE OF THE POWER VESTED IN ME AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA, IT IS HEREBY

ORDERED: That the design, construction, operation and maintenance of any new or expanded state building shall incorporate "Green Building" standards that give certification credits equally to forest products grown, manufactured, and certified under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, the American Tree Farm System and the Forest Stewardship Council.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: The design, construction, operation and maintenance of any existing state building to be renovated shall incorporate "Green Building" standards that achieve significant energy efficiency and environmental sustainability relevant to the scope of the renovation, provided this can be accomplished on a cost-effective basis, considering construction and operating costs over the life cycle of the improvement.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: Each department, office, board, commission or agency of state government is directed to identify any policies not in conformance with this Executive Order and submit them to the Governor's Office by July 1, 2013.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: For the purposes of this order, a "state building" includes any building owned, constructed or acquired by the State of Georgia or any department, office, board, commission or agency thereof, including state-supported institutions of higher learning. School districts, counties and municipalities are not subject to the requirements of this Order.

This 10 day of August, 2012.

Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR