Resolution

ENROLLED HOUSE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 1067

By: DeWitt, Armes, Fields and Ritze of the House

and

Justice, Crain and Schulz of the Senate

A Concurrent Resolution urging Congress to protect and support the Capper-Volstead Act and other related federal statutes; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the ability of farmers and ranchers in the United States to join together in cooperative efforts is vital to their continued economic viability; and

WHEREAS, the Capper-Volstead Act and other federal statutes have long recognized the importance of protecting and strengthening the ability of farmers and ranchers to join together in cooperative enterprises, including cooperatively marketing their products, serving as bargaining agents, ensuring access to competitive markets worldwide, helping agricultural producer members engage in value-added processing and helping achieve other meaningful public policy goals; and

WHEREAS, farmer- and rancher-owned cooperatives play a significant role in helping farmers and ranchers improve their operational success through increasing income from the marketplace, managing risk, meeting credit and input needs and competing more effectively in a rapidly changing global economy; and

WHEREAS, farmer- and rancher-owned cooperatives also play an important role in providing consumers in the United States and abroad with a dependable supply of safe, affordable, high-quality food, fiber, and related products; and

WHEREAS, in addition, farmer- and rancher-owned cooperatives help meet the energy needs of the United States through the production and marketing of renewable fuels such as ethanol and biodiesel; and

WHEREAS, there are nearly 3,000 farmer- and rancher-owned cooperatives located throughout the United States with a combined membership representing a majority of the nearly 2 million farmers and ranchers in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of farmer-owned cooperatives go well beyond the farm gate, directly supporting rural America by providing over 250,000 jobs, with a total payroll in excess of $8 billion. Total profits for farmer cooperatives in 2008 were $4.2 billion, with this money either returning to farmer members or being reinvested into the cooperative which benefits the cooperative members and further bolsters local communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature urges Congress to continue to protect and support the Capper-Volstead Act and other related federal statutes in order to ensure the ability of farmers and ranchers to join together in cooperative efforts to:

1. Improve their income from the marketplace;

2. Capitalize on new market opportunities;

3. Help meet the food and fiber needs of consumers;

4. Provide for increased energy production;

5. Promote rural development;

6. Maintain and create needed jobs; and

7. Contribute to a growing United States economy.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, the Oklahoma Agricultural Cooperative Council, the President of the United States Barack Obama, the United States Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, and the members of the Oklahoma Congressional delegation.

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 26th day of May, 2010.

Presiding Officer of the House of Representatives

Adopted by the Senate the 28th day of May, 2010.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Secretary of State this 28th **day of** May, **20** 10, **at** 9:00 **o'clock** P **M.**

By: M. Susan Lowry