

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1708

A RESOLUTION honoring the Kansas Farm Bureau, its 105 county Farm Bureaus, and the many Kansas farmers and ranchers who provide food, fuel, and fiber to the citizens of Kansas and to people around the world.

WHEREAS, For 100 years, the Kansas Farm Bureau has played a critical role as the *Voice of Agriculture* throughout Kansas, the United States, and around the world; and

WHEREAS, In 1919, the Bureau was established as a grassroots organization by a group of members united in the belief that together they could better protect their way of life and achieve better futures for their families and communities; and

WHEREAS, The Bureau successfully defended Kansas' agricultural industry by lobbying for a constitutional amendment allowing for use-value appraisal of agricultural land. This enabled Kansas farms to continue operations without being devastated by high market values taxation; and

WHEREAS, The Bureau successfully mobilized to help pass a constitutional amendment that adjusted commercial property classification rates. Through its efforts, the Bureau helped thwart the opportunity to broaden the tax base with livestock and farm machinery; and

WHEREAS, The Bureau helped protect Kansas property rights through eminent domain reform. In 2006, these efforts culminated in the passage of Substitute for Senate Bill No. 323; and

WHEREAS, The Bureau has long played a critical role in safeguarding property rights through the protection of natural resources; and

WHEREAS, As part of a coalition including the American Farm Bureau, the Kansas Corn Growers Association, and other farm bureaus from Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas, the Bureau successfully challenged the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's April 2014 decision to list the lesser prairie chicken as a threatened species; and

WHEREAS, The Bureau advocates, educates, and serves Kansas farmers and ranchers through a wide range of programs, including agriculture education, leadership development, legal defense, rural development, and international trade. Through its work, the Bureau is dedicated to offering common sense solutions to challenges facing agriculturalists, small business owners, and rural communities; and

WHEREAS, Currently, the Bureau is working to ensure every Kansan has access to high-speed broadband service, no matter where they live and work. The Bureau believes high-speed service is vital to emergency services, educational opportunities, and precision agriculture. The Bureau is also seeking affordable solutions to ensure all members have access to health care; and

WHEREAS, The Bureau reaffirms it will continue to inform when needed, protect when challenged, and fight for the lives of rural Kansans and their communities: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we honor the Kansas Farm Bureau, its 105 county Farm Bureaus, and the many Kansas farmers and ranchers who provide food, fuel, and fiber to the citizens of Kansas and to people around the world. Through its leadership and devotion to the citizens and communities of rural Kansas, the Kansas Farm Bureau embodies the spirit and qualities we associate with the very best of Kansans; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate shall send six enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Kerschen.

Senate Resolution No. 1708 was sponsored by Senators Kerschen, Alley, Baumgardner, Berger, Billinger, Bowers, Braun, Denning, Estes, Faust-Goudeau, Francisco, Givens, Goddard, Haley, Hardy, Hawk, Hensley, Hilderbrand, Longbine, Lynn, McGinn, Miller, Olson, Petersen, Pettey, Rucker, Skubal, Suellentrop, Sykes, Taylor, Tyson, Wagle, Ware and Wilborn.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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Secretary of the Senate.