

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6020

A RESOLUTION opposing closure of United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service offices in 11 counties.

WHEREAS, Kansas has a strong agricultural tradition that predates its statehood, and agriculture is a significant contributor to the state's economic well-being; and

WHEREAS, Cash receipts in 2005 for farm marketing in Kansas totaled \$9.9 billion, which is 4.2% of total cash receipts for farm marketing in the United States, placing Kansas sixth in the nation, according to the Kansas Department of Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, Closure of these offices by the United States Department of Agriculture contradicts two of the Department's primary missions which are to help revitalize rural America and help farmers produce a safe and abundant food supply; and

WHEREAS, Kansas farmers have had an integral part in producing the safest, most abundant food supply in the world; and

WHEREAS, Kansas produces more wheat and grain sorghum than any other state in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Kansas grown foods contribute to the health and well-being of people worldwide; and

WHEREAS, Kansas ranks seventh in farm products exports, which were \$2.7 billion in 2005; and

WHEREAS, One out of every five Kansans is employed in a job related to farming or food production; and

WHEREAS, Agriculture provides ingredients for products used in transportation, energy, healthcare, construction, manufacturing, printing, personal care, education and sports: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas:* That the House of Representatives is opposed to the closure of the United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service offices in 11 Kansas counties; those counties being Morton, Gove, Comanche, Barber, Geary, Wabaunsee, Chase, Elk, Woodson, Leavenworth and Johnson; and

*Be it further resolved:* That Kansas is a vast geographical state containing 82,282 square miles, ranking 15th in geographic size in the nation, thus, close proximity for agricultural producers to United States Department of Agriculture offices is vitally important and closure of these offices will negatively impact rural counties already economically challenged to maintain population, employment and quality of life; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, the Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, the Chairman of the Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee of the United States Senate and the Kansas Congressional Delegation.

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

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Speaker of the House.

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Chief Clerk of the House.