**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO MEMORIALIZE SOUTH CAROLINA FARMERS FOR THEIR IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE AND TO ENCOURAGE STATE AND FEDERAL LEADERS TO EXTEND EMERGENCY FUNDING TO FINANCIALLY ASSIST FARMERS WHO HAVE SUFFERED THE SEVERE ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF NATURAL DISASTERS.

Whereas, farmers are hardworking people who are essential to the character, health, and economic growth of South Carolina; and

Whereas, the agricultural industry is an integral part of South Carolina’s economy, particularly in the rural areas of the state; and

Whereas, the agricultural industry employs over two‑hundred ten thousand people in South Carolina, which accounts for over nine percent of total employment in the state; and

Whereas, agriculture is an important industry for South Carolina, with an annual economic impact of $41.7 billion; and

Whereas, agriculture in South Carolina has been impacted in recent years by destructive weather events, including significant coastal flooding and historic rainfall from September to October of 2015, Hurricane Matthew in 2016, Tropical Storm Irma in 2017, Hurricane Florence in 2018, Hurricane Michael in 2018, and historic flooding along the coast in November 2018; and

Whereas, farmers across the State are in need of emergency funding from the state and federal government as a result of natural disasters; and

Whereas, farmers need to be financially protected from the impact of natural disasters so they can maintain their businesses, supply essential jobs, and contribute to the economy. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, memorialize South Carolina farmers for their important contributions to the State, and encourage state and federal leaders to extend emergency funding to financially assist farmers who have suffered the severe economic impacts of natural disasters.

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