

Second Extraordinary Session, 2008

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 7

BY REPRESENTATIVE FOIL

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Soil and Water Research Unit of the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, for the importance of its work and its benefits to agriculture and the environment in Louisiana and the Mississippi River Basin.

WHEREAS, the Soil and Water Research Unit of the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) housed at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge has carried out vital research on farming practices and technologies for over two decades; and

WHEREAS, the ARS Soil and Water Research Unit's work has focused on reducing environmental impacts from farm practices while maintaining and increasing productivity and profitability of agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the ARS Soil and Water Research Unit has played a leadership role in efforts to improve agricultural drainage management across the Mississippi River Basin to reduce nutrient loading to the river system that fuels hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico, a condition which threatens Louisiana's important coastal fishery; and

WHEREAS, the ARS Soil and Water Research Unit is conducting research in the Cabin Teele Watershed in Madison Parish aimed at reducing nutrient runoff to the Atchafalaya River that could reach the Gulf of Mexico and is working in partnership with local producers and landowners to achieve that goal; and

WHEREAS, the ARS Soil and Water Research Unit has a long-standing partnership with the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center in Baton Rouge and has conducted a number of significant joint research projects with the university as well as contributed to the funding of graduate students' research at the Agricultural Center; and

WHEREAS, the ARS Soil and Water Research Unit's work has been expanded to include research into production of biofuel crops that incorporates soil and water conservation, focusing on production of Louisiana sugarcane, and has planned to expand its operations at the Ben Hur site south of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Soil and Water Research Unit of the United State Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, for the importance of its work and its benefits to agriculture and the environment in Louisiana and the Mississippi River Basin and express its support to the governor and to the congressional delegation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service Unit in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES