

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 45

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 90

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 45—Relative to farming.

[Filed with Secretary of State July 11, 2006.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 45, Villines. Farming.

This measure would memorialize the President and Congress to support the priorities of the Specialty Crop Industry in the 2007 Farm Bill.

WHEREAS, Fruit, vegetable, and tree nut production in the United States accounts for \$35 billion in farmgate value, or 33 percent of farm cash receipts, and with the addition of nursery and greenhouse production, overall specialty crops account for 51 percent of farmgate value; and

WHEREAS, In California, fruit, vegetable, and tree nut production represents a \$19 billion dollar industry representing over 37 percent of California's farm cash receipts; and

WHEREAS, The fruit, vegetable, and tree nut industry is a critical and growing component of U.S. agriculture, deserving of full and equal consideration with other agricultural sectors in the 2007 Farm Bill; and

WHEREAS, The fruit, vegetable, and tree nut industry does not seek direct program payments to growers, but rather places its emphasis on building the long-term competitiveness and sustainability of U.S. fruit and vegetable production; and

WHEREAS, Government investment in the competitiveness and sustainability of the U.S. fruit and vegetable industry will produce a strong return on investment for all Americans, not just farmers, by expanding access and availability of safe, wholesome, healthy, and affordable fruits and vegetables, and in that the 2007 Farm Bill will be a critical component in reaching the mandate of doubling fruit and vegetable consumption called for in the Dietary Guidelines for Americans published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA); and

WHEREAS, With California's mandates that growers must meet the very strictest environmental, labor, and other standards in the world, comes the responsibility to help those producers achieve cost-effective compliance through government investment in the agriculture industry to create a fair, level playing field with international competitors who do not face these regulatory burdens; and

WHEREAS, Without appropriate assistance, U.S. fruit, vegetable, and tree nut producers will be increasingly compelled to invest in less restrictive foreign growing areas; and

WHEREAS, A thriving and competitive U.S. fruit, vegetable, and tree nut industry will support strong growth in export markets and improve our agricultural balance of trade in order to realize the goal of increasing exports; and

WHEREAS, It is critical that federal policy and resources support efforts to remove the many existing international trade barriers that continue to block U.S. fruit, vegetables, and tree nut exports; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly, That, by adoption of this resolution, the Legislature hereby encourages the Congress of the United States to recognize the importance of the Specialty Crop Industry in the development of the 2007 Farm Bill, and support the priorities of the Specialty Crop Industry in the 2007 Farm Bill; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.