

1 SJR55
2 139761-5
3 By Senator Whatley
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 22-MAR-12

1 SJR55

2
3
4 ENROLLED, SJR55,

5 URGING CONGRESS TO REAUTHORIZE THE CONSERVATION
6 TITLE OF THE UNITED STATES FARM BILL.

7
8 WHEREAS, deliberations needed to re-authorize the
9 Farm Bill in 2012 will be particularly difficult given the
10 need to reduce federal government spending, and we believe the
11 Conservation Title can continue to meet vital national needs
12 while sharing in budget reductions; and

13 WHEREAS, landowners, farmers, ranchers, forest
14 managers, agricultural and forest businesses, hunters and
15 anglers, local and state government officials, and nonprofit
16 organizations representing a wide range of interests, can
17 attest that, without any doubt, the programs within the
18 Conservation Title work cost-effectively to serve the
19 short-term and long-term interests of the American people; and

20 WHEREAS, the Conservation Title programs recognize
21 that the health of America's soil, water, and other natural
22 resources is essential to the long-term productivity and
23 economic viability of agriculture and forestry, that
24 protecting and managing our natural resources is critical to
25 the future of American communities, and that most of our

1 nation's opportunities for hunting, fishing, and observing
2 nature depend upon privately owned habitat on farms, ranches,
3 and forest land. The Conservation Title programs help to
4 protect these resources in a uniquely successful way by
5 funding a variety of voluntary partnerships and cooperative
6 conservation efforts between the U.S. Department of
7 Agriculture and private landowners. These conservation
8 programs are essential to the sustainability of U.S.
9 agriculture and forestry and to meeting the growing demand for
10 food and fiber at home and abroad; and

11 WHEREAS, while America has become a more urban
12 nation, agriculture, forestry, and outdoor recreation continue
13 to be essential to America's economy, and according to the
14 United States Department of Agriculture, farm and farm-related
15 employment includes about 24 million jobs. Estimates by the
16 American Forest and Paper Association are that forest
17 management and forest dependent industries account for
18 approximately five percent of the total U.S. manufacturing
19 GDP, produce about \$175 billion in products annually, and
20 employ nearly 900,000 people; and

21 WHEREAS, A study by United States Fish and Wildlife
22 Service finds that hunting, angling, and wildlife-dependent
23 recreation contribute \$122 billion annually to our national
24 economy. Much of this economic activity is located in rural
25 areas where these activities are vital to local economies.

1 Natural resources-based products represent a significant
2 proportion of the export sector so essential to our economic
3 health. Indeed, U.S. agricultural exports exceeded \$137
4 billion and accounted for a \$42 billion farm trade surplus in
5 2011, one of the few bright spots in the American economy last
6 year; and

7 WHEREAS, the Farm Bill programs fund voluntary
8 agreements between the USDA, nongovernmental organizations and
9 farmers, ranchers, and foresters to keep their land in
10 agriculture and forestry, to preserve natural habitat in rural
11 landscapes, to save the productivity and economic value of
12 soil and water, and to assist in the management of
13 agricultural and forest lands. The result is real conservation
14 with multiple benefits for every region of America, not the
15 least of these is helping landowners to stay on the land as
16 stewards of America's legacy of natural resources; now
17 therefore,

18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
19 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That by copy of this resolution to
20 each member of the Alabama Congressional delegation, we urge
21 each of you to vote to reauthorize the Farm Bill in a manner
22 that sustains the integrity and effectiveness of the
23 Conservation Title and maintains conservation funding that
24 meets our national needs and prioritizes working lands

1 programs that promote conservation practices that keeps land
2 in agricultural production.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR55
Senate 22-MAR-12
I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution
originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris
Secretary

House of Representatives
Adopted: 05-APR-12

By: Senator Whatley