

Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 126

BY REPRESENTATIVE ANDERS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To encourage state, parish, and local governments to purchase conservation easements from owners of quality agriculture and forestry lands.

WHEREAS, an agricultural and forestry conservation easement is an interest in land which represents the right to prevent development or improvement of a parcel for any purpose other than agricultural and forestry production; and

WHEREAS, this program is to preserve the state's agricultural and forestry land base by helping to ensure the continued viability of Louisiana's agricultural and forestry industry; and

WHEREAS, these preserved lands contribute not only to a secure land base for agricultural and forestry operations but also to a host of other quality of life benefits that accrue at the local, parish, and state level; and

WHEREAS, the agricultural and forestry conservation easement may be granted by an agriculture and forestry land owner to a state, parish, or local government agricultural and forestry land preservation program; and

WHEREAS, the preservation of agriculture and forestry lands make good economic sense on many levels; and

WHEREAS, it helps preserve the state's agricultural and forestry industry, contributes to the local tax roll, and generates tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, because Louisiana continues to experience a strong market, there exists an ever-increasing pressure to convert farmland to development throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, this is causing the rapid escalation of easement values throughout Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the rapid escalation in easement values means that fewer agriculture and forestry land acres can be preserved with the same amount of program funding; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of the Agriculture and Forestry Conservation Easement Fund seeks to preserve as much land as possible in as short a time frame as achievable to maximize the preservation of land into the future.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby encourage state, parish, and local governments to purchase conservation easements from owners of quality agriculture and forestry lands in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the commissioner of administration, the Police Jury Association, and the Louisiana Municipal Association.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE