

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 6

WHEREAS, U.S. and Missouri agriculture has an impressive track record of successfully addressing the economic and market-based issues associated with coexistence, whether via neighbor-to-neighbor or through state seed certifying agencies or other local, state or regional initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has indicated that it may deregulate genetically-engineered alfalfa with certain conditions in an effort to protect organic growers' claims of potential harm. The American Farm Bureau and several other grower-based organizations strongly believe that such a conditional deregulation is not science-based, and would restrict or even eliminate the use of a valuable tool from growers in many parts of this country; and

WHEREAS, in the field of agricultural biotechnology, Missouri growers have worked closely with the seed industry to meet their respective stewardship obligations through contractual arrangements and other mechanisms, which is where matters of coexistence and stewardship are addressed most effectively and efficiently; and

WHEREAS, the National Alfalfa and Forage Alliance developed its Best Management Practices for Roundup Ready Alfalfa seed production in 2008 and has taken the lead in providing coexistence documents for alfalfa hay export markets, alfalfa seed export markets, and organic alfalfa seed and hay markets; and

WHEREAS, issues of coexistence are always best dealt with farmer-to-farmer, and any proposals to change federal policy on agricultural biotechnology regulation must be done through a thoughtful dialogue inclusive of all U.S. government agencies:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-sixth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby urge the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to make regulatory decisions based on sound science and to deregulate genetically-engineered alfalfa without any conditions as soon as possible to enable alfalfa farmers in Missouri and other states to have access to genetically-engineered alfalfa seeds in time for the spring planting season; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, each member of the Missouri Congressional delegation, and the director of the Missouri Department of Agriculture.