

2015 -- H 6350

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LC002908
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**HONORING ALFRED R. BETTENCOURT, JR., FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE WITH
THE RHODE ISLAND FARM BUREAU**

Introduced By: Representatives Naughton, Handy, Reilly, Shekarchi, and Filippi

Date Introduced: June 24, 2015

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Al Bettencourt, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Farm Bureau
2 (RIFB), has spent the past fifteen years as the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Farm
3 Bureau (RIFB), but he has spent most of his life dedicated to advancing and protecting farming
4 and farm land in our state; and

5 WHEREAS, RIFB is an independent, non-governmental organization of volunteer
6 farmers and ranchers who have united in order to advance farming for the benefit of all. It is both
7 local and national in scope and influence, and provides a voice for agricultural producers at all
8 levels; and

9 WHEREAS, As the Executive Director of RIFB, Mr. Bettencourt has successfully
10 advocated for myriad advances and protections for farming including, changing Rhode Island's
11 tax law so that the estate tax on farmland would be based on its actual use, not its potential use,
12 which resulted in keeping thousands of acres of farmland in production for the benefit of all
13 Rhode Islanders; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Bettencourt received his Bachelor's degree in Social Science Teacher
15 Education from Rhode Island College and his Master's degree in Public Administration. Previous
16 to taking the helm at RIFB, he was a Loan Officer at FEC Mortgage, and had worked as the
17 State's Executive Director of USDA; and

18 WHEREAS, In addition to his work at RIFB, Mr. Bettencourt runs the Bettencourt Farm,
19 located in Pascoag, Rhode Island. His family has been involved with farming in Rhode Island for

1 over 100 years, starting in 1905, when his grandfather, Manuel Bettencourt purchased land for a
2 dairy farm in Warren. Eventually in 2009, Mr. Bettencourt and his wife, Gail, purchased an acre
3 of farmland in Pascoag and participate in the Burrillville Farmer's Market; now, therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
5 Providence Plantations hereby honors and thanks Al Bettencourt for his dedicated service to
6 agriculture and the people of this state and our nation; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
8 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Alfred R. Bettencourt, Jr.

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