

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 937

By Grills

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Tennessee farmers and farming practices.

WHEREAS, Tennessee farmers are the backbone of the Volunteer State, and their success is of vital importance to the economic growth and sustainability of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, dicamba is one of only four herbicides widely available and registered for post-emergent use in soybeans. Importantly, for many Tennessee farmers in areas with high herbicide resistance pressures, it is the only remaining post-emergent herbicide to which some local weed populations have not yet developed resistance; these farmers have no other effective option to protect their crops; and

WHEREAS, cotton and soybean farmers rely on post-emergent dicamba to manage yield-robbing weeds, and the ability to apply dicamba on dicamba-tolerant soybeans and cotton without damaging the crop during the critical post-emergent period allows farmers to control weeds at a time when they have few other options to protect their crop; and

WHEREAS, on February 6, 2024, the U.S. District Court of Arizona vacated the registration of three dicamba products, XtendiMax, Engenia, and Tavium, in *Center for Biological Diversity, et al., v. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, et al.*; and

WHEREAS, in response, agricultural organizations across the country are calling on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to appeal the decision and grant an existing stocks order for the 2024 crop year; and

WHEREAS, this federal court decision comes at a very difficult time for farmers across Tennessee as most producers have already made their cropping decisions, secured seed and crop protection products, and are doing preparatory field work for the 2024 growing season; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee farmers have made significant investments, often while using financial credit, to prepare for this crop season. With little to no time to purchase alternatives and change inputs before the 2024 planting season, the loss of the dicamba label places thousands of acres of row crops in Tennessee at risk of decreased or completely lost production this year; and

WHEREAS, these potential losses would significantly affect Tennessee farmers' financial security, negatively impact agricultural creditors, and would have an extensive negative impact on the nation's food supply; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and recognize Tennessee farmers and farming practices, including the use of dicamba, which has been a massive boon to the agriculture community of the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.