

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8023 of the Second Extraordinary Session

By Haile

A RESOLUTION to recognize and congratulate Tennessee Farmers Cooperative on the occasion of its seventy-fifth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those exemplary organizations that support our farmers' livelihood as they work long hours to provide safe, homegrown, fresh fruits and vegetables for the nutrition of Tennessee's communities; and

WHEREAS, one such agricultural organization is Tennessee Farmers Cooperative (TFC), which is celebrating its seventy-fifth anniversary; and

WHEREAS, a member of Co-op, which is recognized as one of the strongest federated farm supply cooperative systems in the United States, TFC has been serving the needs of Tennessee farmers and their communities since 1945; and

WHEREAS, before the formation of TFC, farmers in Tennessee struggled to obtain the basic supplies needed for their farming operations, such as the soil and fertilizer that analyses by the University of Tennessee recommended for use on their farms; and

WHEREAS, what began as a small group of farmers banding together and asking their neighbors to make investments that would support the then-urgent need for a dependable source of basic farm supplies now boasts a foundation of approximately 70,000 farmers who are member-owners of local co-ops in their counties; and

WHEREAS, divided to reflect Tennessee's three Grand Divisions, TFC currently has fifty-two member owners that operate 164 retail locations that serve the needs of customers in eighty-four of Tennessee's ninety-five counties; and

WHEREAS, in addition to its commitment to serve the needs of our State's farmers for the last seventy-five years, TFC continues to play a vital role in growing Tennessee's economy; and

WHEREAS, in the past ten years, TFC has returned more than \$149 million in cash to member cooperatives, averaging nearly \$15 million each year; and

WHEREAS, TFC played an instrumental role in recognizing an urgent need and developed the key resources necessary to grow Tennessee's agricultural industry into what it is today; TFC continues to show its dedication to the success of Tennessee and its farmers, economy, and communities seventy-five years later; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the officers, staff, and members of Tennessee Farmers Cooperative on the happy occasion of their seventy-fifth anniversary and thank these dedicated people for their hard work, vision, and ongoing commitment to promoting Tennessee's agricultural community.

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.