

By: Representatives Vaught, Boyd
By: Senator D. Wallace

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

TO ENCOURAGE INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF VALUE
CHAIN BIO-SECURITY TECHNOLOGIES WITHIN THE STATE OF
ARKANSAS.

Subtitle

TO ENCOURAGE INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
OF VALUE CHAIN BIO-SECURITY TECHNOLOGIES
WITHIN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

WHEREAS, agriculture is Arkansas' largest industry contributing nineteen billion four hundred million (19,400,000,000) in value added dollars to the state economy in 2019; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas ranked eleventh in the nation in cash receipts for animal and animal products, valued at five billion one hundred million dollars (\$5,100,000,000); and

WHEREAS, in Arkansas, one (1) in every seven (7) value added dollars totaling more than three hundred seventy-eight million dollars (\$378,000,000) is contributed by agriculture; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas is the third-highest ranked state for food processing according to a report by Business Facilities shared by the Arkansas Economic Development Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Fort Smith-Fayetteville region is the number two (2) area



for food processing in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas is the home of the world's largest food retailer and the largest meat processor in the United States, supplying sustenance to billions of people worldwide; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, forty-two percent (42%) of all Arkansas land was comprised of farms; and

WHEREAS, agriculture provides two hundred fifty-four thousand five hundred (254,500) jobs in Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, ninety-seven percent (97%) of Arkansas' forty-nine thousand three hundred forty-six (49,346) farms are small to medium-sized family-owned farms and contribute significantly to the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, the impact of respiratory and hemorrhagic pathogens tend to impact small and medium-sized farms more heavily; and

WHEREAS, wet protein rendering supply chains tend to be optimum propagation channels for respiratory and hemorrhagic pathogens; and

WHEREAS, the University of Arkansas is an agricultural industry leader in animal science education, innovation, research, and development; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, African swine fever (ASF) resulted in the loss of millions of pigs in China, the world's largest producer and consumer of pork, with a total economic impact of seventy-eight hundredths percent (0.78%), equating to one hundred eleven billion dollars (\$111,000,000,000), of the country's gross domestic product in 2019 and longitudinal analyses estimating an impact upwards of two and seven-tenths percent (2.7%), equating to three hundred eighty-five billion dollars (\$385,000,000,000), gross domestic product based on the current trajectory; and

WHEREAS, agricultural economists at Iowa State University estimate that the economic impact of a potential African swine fever (ASF) outbreak in the

United States could result in a loss of fifty billion dollars (\$50,000,000,000) over ten (10) years; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture has dedicated five hundred million dollars (\$500,000,000) in Commodity Credit Corporation funds for prevention of and preparation for African swine fever (ASF); and

WHEREAS, a federal order suspending the interstate movement of all live swine, swine germplasm, swine products, and swine byproducts from Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands to the mainland United States has been implemented; and

WHEREAS, action by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas is necessary to prevent worldwide food value chain disruptions and to increase food security for all Americans in order to build a strong foundation for businesses, consumers, and agricultural producers within the State of Arkansas,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, support requests for federal grant funding for companies creating innovative technologies that benefit Arkansas' agricultural value chain through mitigating bio-security risks.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate copy be provided by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives to each member of the Arkansas congressional delegation, the United States Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the United States Senate, the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and Governor Asa Hutchinson.