

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.16

Reps. Witwer, Allor, Bollin, Calley, Chirkun, Coleman, Garza, Gay-Dagnogo, Hoadley, Jones, Kahle, Kennedy, Lasinski, Leutheuser, Liberati, Manoogian, Marino, Pohutsky, Rabhi, Sabo, Sneller, Sowerby, Stone and Warren offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the
2 founding of Michigan Farm Bureau.

3 Whereas, February 4, 2019, marks 100 years of Michigan Farm
4 Bureau's presence in the state of Michigan; and

5 Whereas, The origins of Michigan Farm Bureau began in 1914,
6 when President Woodrow Wilson signed the Smith-Lever Act, which
7 created the extension service. This provided local agricultural
8 agents from land-grant universities through a partnership with the
9 United States Department of Agriculture. Before these agents could



1 be approved, counties had to organize into local farmers bureaus to
2 help direct the extension project; and

3 Whereas, Michigan organized a state federation of county Farm
4 Bureaus in 1919, following Missouri, Massachusetts, and Vermont,
5 who did so in 1915. The organization began when county extension
6 agents and farmers from 57 counties throughout Michigan met at
7 Michigan Agricultural College (now Michigan State University) to
8 officially form what was then called the Michigan State Farm
9 Bureau; and

10 Whereas, One month later, the newly formed Michigan State Farm
11 Bureau adopted its mission statement, which read: "Its purposes are
12 to unite under a definite head of all other farm organizations. The
13 Farm Bureau should not be considered just another farmers'
14 organization added to the list but as THE ONE which may assist all
15 others to better accomplish their purposes." The organization would
16 later drop the word "State" from its name in 1944 to officially
17 become the Michigan Farm Bureau; and

18 Whereas, Today, Michigan Farm Bureau ensures the growth of
19 Michigan food and farms, such as advocating for good government
20 policy, developing opportunities for young farmers, providing
21 student scholarships and grants, supporting local food efforts,
22 creating food literacy programs for kids, hosting community
23 building events and funding efforts to protect the environment,
24 water quality, farmland preservation, and more; and

25 Whereas, Michigan Farm Bureau is involved in numerous annual
26 charitable contributions and volunteerism, including Michigan
27 Easter Seals, Harvest for All, FFA, 4-H, the Michigan Livestock
28 Expo, and the U.P. State Fair, among many others; and

29 Whereas, Michigan Farm Bureau also annually recognizes and

1 honors its deserving Farm Bureau members and individuals from
2 outside the organization for their contributions and achievements
3 in supporting and advancing the state's agriculture industry,
4 including bestowing the Young Farmer Achievement Award, the Young
5 Farmer Agricultural Employee Award, the Educator of the Year Award,
6 and the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award, among others;
7 now, therefore, be it

8 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
9 this legislative body commemorate the 100th anniversary of the
10 founding of Michigan Farm Bureau; and be it further Resolved, That
11 a copy of this resolution be transmitted to Michigan Farm Bureau,
12 as evidence of our esteem for being Michigan's voice for
13 agriculture over the last 100 years.