

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

COMMENDING HENDRIX COLLEGE FOR ITS PROPOSED PLAN TO PURCHASE MORE OF THE FOOD USED AT THE COLLEGE FROM LOCAL SOURCES AND URGING THE STATE-SUPPORTED UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AND OTHER STATE INSTITUTIONS TO CONSIDER THE FEASIBILITY OF INITIATING SIMILAR PROGRAMS.

WHEREAS, Hendrix College is currently studying the feasibility of initiating a plan or program whereby more of the food items served in the college cafeteria would be locally grown or produced; and

WHEREAS, the study has revealed that a substantial portion of the food products currently purchased for use in the cafeteria were grown or produced outside the area and some outside the State, with one prime example being the college now purchases Mississippi produced rice while Arkansas is the number one rice producer in the nation; and

WHEREAS, under the proposed plan, Hendrix College would phase in the program for purchase of more food products in the local area and in the State over a period of about three years enabling the college to adjust to the necessity for preparing more fresh food in the cafeteria rather than using prepared foods as is the current practice; and

WHEREAS, this program, if implemented on a broad scale by institutions in the State, could have a substantial impact on local economies in the various areas and a beneficial impact on the overall economy of the State; and

WHEREAS, the farm economy of the State is currently at an almost unprecedented low and the initiation of such programs by the various institutions would produce a very visible boost in the agricultural economy,

NOW THEREFORE,

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

That the General Assembly hereby commends Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas, for initiating a plan for purchasing more of the food items served in its cafeteria from local producers and respectfully urges State-supported universities and colleges and other State-supported institutions to study the feasibility of implementing similar programs.