

BY REPRESENTATIVE ROMERO

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To memorialize the United States Congress and the United States Department of Agriculture

3 to reinstate and fund the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement

4 Program to support Louisiana farmers, strengthen community-based food systems,

5 and expand access to fresh, locally grown food for underserved populations.

6 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture's Local Food Purchase

7 Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA) was created to support local and

8 regional food systems by providing states with funding to purchase food from socially

9 disadvantaged farmers, ranchers, and producers for distribution through nonprofit

10 organizations, food banks, and other community feeding efforts; and

11 WHEREAS, the LFPA brought more than twelve million dollars to Louisiana,

12 boosting local agriculture and ensuring that fresh, healthy food reached families in need

13 through trusted distribution partners such as food banks and community-based organizations;

14 and

15 WHEREAS, the program enabled new and expanded market access for small and

16 historically underserved farmers in Louisiana, building stronger local supply chains and

17 contributing to rural economic development; and

18 WHEREAS, the LFPA fostered innovative partnerships between farmers, food hubs,

19 tribal entities, and hunger relief organizations to deliver culturally appropriate and nutritious

20 foods to communities facing food insecurity; and

1           WHEREAS, there are five regional food banks that make up the Feeding Louisiana  
2 network which includes the Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and  
3 Acadiana, the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank, the Food Bank of Central Louisiana, the  
4 Food Bank of Northeast Louisiana, and the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana; and

5           WHEREAS, each of the five regional food banks has played a pivotal role in  
6 implementing the LFPA program by building new markets for local farmers and ensuring  
7 the consistent distribution of fresh, locally sourced food to communities across the state; and

8           WHEREAS, the sudden and premature termination of the LFPA program by the  
9 United States Department of Agriculture has jeopardized the progress made in strengthening  
10 Louisiana's local food system, disrupted purchasing commitments with farmers, and  
11 diminished the ability of food banks and nonprofits to offer healthy food options to  
12 vulnerable populations; and

13           WHEREAS, restoring and fully funding the LFPA program aligns with national  
14 goals to invest in local agriculture, address food insecurity, promote racial and economic  
15 equity, and improve public health through increased access to unprocessed, nutrient-rich  
16 foods; and

17           WHEREAS, long-term investment in programs like the LFPA is essential to building  
18 a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable food system in Louisiana and across the nation.

19           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
20 memorialize the United States Congress and the United States Department of Agriculture  
21 to reinstate and provide long-term funding for the Local Food Purchase Assistance  
22 Cooperative Agreement Program to support Louisiana farmers, strengthen community-based  
23 food systems, and expand access to fresh, locally grown food for underserved populations.

24           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
25 president of the United States, the secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture,  
26 and each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Memorializes the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture to reinstate and fund the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program to support La. farmers, strengthen community-based food systems, and expand access to fresh, locally grown food for underserved populations.