

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 51

BY REPRESENTATIVE ROMERO

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the United States Congress and the United States Department of Agriculture to reinstate and fund the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program to support Louisiana farmers, strengthen community-based food systems, and expand access to fresh, locally grown food for underserved populations.

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture's Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA) was created to support local and regional food systems by providing states with funding to purchase food from socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers, and producers for distribution through nonprofit organizations, food banks, and other community feeding efforts; and

WHEREAS, the LFPA brought more than twelve million dollars to Louisiana, boosting local agriculture and ensuring that fresh, healthy food reached families in need through trusted distribution partners such as food banks and community-based organizations; and

WHEREAS, the program enabled new and expanded market access for small and historically underserved farmers in Louisiana, building stronger local supply chains and contributing to rural economic development; and

WHEREAS, the LFPA fostered innovative partnerships between farmers, food hubs, tribal entities, and hunger relief organizations to deliver culturally appropriate and nutritious foods to communities facing food insecurity; and

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

Food Bank of Northeast Louisiana, and the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE