

A RESOLUTION recognizing and honoring the Community Farm Alliance for its 30 years of organizing and encouraging cooperation among rural and urban citizens to ensure that family-scale agriculture remains an essential and prosperous part of our economy and our communities.

WHEREAS, July 2016 will mark the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Community Farm Alliance; and

WHEREAS, the Community Farm Alliance has grown from an organization assisting cash-strapped farmers in the mid-1980s to one that today promotes development of policies and programs that reflect needs and priorities of Kentucky communities, is involved in the local foods movement, works to support meaningful agriculture legislation, involves itself in food policy and farm-to-table initiatives, and focuses attention on helping Appalachia develop its local food and farm production; and

WHEREAS, the organization was founded when a group of farmers from several different Kentucky counties met for the first time in Bardstown and began the organization process; and

WHEREAS, in the subsequent years, when many farmers throughout the nation were struggling in the midst of the 1980s farm crisis, the Community Farm Alliance took steps to establish a suicide hotline, worked on farm credit legislation, and even distributed free seed corn to needy Kentucky farm families; and

WHEREAS, heading into the 1990s, the Community Farm Alliance took an active role in organic certification, became involved in water quality, health care, tobacco reinvestment, and dairy issues, and concentrated animal feeding operations siting; and

WHEREAS, the Community Farm Alliance worked to see through the passage of House Bill 611 in the 2000 session, landmark legislation dealing with the state's recognition of the tobacco settlement agreement, and other legislation in subsequent years benefitting small and first-time farmers; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, the Community Farm Alliance has recognized the

ever-changing landscape of agriculture, such as offering its voice to the legalization of industrial hemp as a cash crop, has worked to support farmers' markets, has supported placement of locally grown food in state parks and schools, and has helped farmers supply fresh food to food banks; and

WHEREAS, as the third decade of the 21st century approaches, the Community Farm Alliance continues to work toward the development of a food system based on safe, adequate, and nutritious food for human consumption produced in a manner that is socially, economically, and ecologically sustainable;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. This honorable body commends the Community Farm Alliance for its hard-won successes and accomplishments these past 30 years and wishes the organization much success in its endeavors in the years to come.

➔Section 2. When the House of Representatives adjourns on this day, it does so in honor of the Community Farm Alliance and with gratitude for all the work the organization does in benefitting Kentucky's agricultural future.

➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Representative Rita Smart for delivery.