

A RESOLUTION urging the Kentucky Congressional delegation to create a program of crop insurance for farmers growing fruits and vegetables.

WHEREAS, agriculture is an essential industry in America that benefits billions of people in the United States and worldwide, yet there is no universal insurance program that safeguards all farmers and the public against crop losses; and

WHEREAS, commodity crops, meaning those crops which are traded, such as grains, soybeans, cotton, are eligible for insurance coverage that protects the farmer against losses; and

WHEREAS, specialty crops, which are defined by the United States Department of Agriculture as fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, horticulture, and floriculture, have not had insurance programs designed for whole-farm risk management that benefits specialty crop farmers who are not protecting against trade losses; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the Farm Bill included a provision for a pilot program in whole-farm risk management that would protect small and mid-sized farmers against income losses; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky has roughly 85,000 of America's 3.2 million specialty crop farming operations; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky has approximately 13,000 acres of specialty crops in production; and

WHEREAS, the importance of specialty crop farming continues to grow through Checkoff Programs, Export Assistance Programs, and Nutrition Programs, such as the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program; and

WHEREAS, while the inclusion on whole farm insurance in the 2014 Farm Bill and the Noninsurance Assistance Program have provided greater coverage and relief for fruit and vegetable farmers, more needs to be done; and

WHEREAS, commodity and specialty crops are both important to the success of Kentucky's and America's agricultural industries, and all farmers deserve equal protection

from factors outside of their control; and

WHEREAS, America has long been able and expected to export food throughout the world, and a universal insurance program is necessary to sustain American Farmers and the agriculture industry as a whole;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

➔Section 1. The members of the House of Representatives urge the Kentucky Congressional delegation to create a program for crop insurance for farmers growing fruits and vegetables.

➔Section 2. The members of the House of Representatives recognize the need of specialty crops farmers for insurance assistance and relief.

➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the members of Kentucky's Congressional delegation.