

2012 -- S 2901

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

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SENATE RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING AGRICULTURE IN RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, Sheehan, Hodgson, Miller, and Tassoni

Date Introduced: April 26, 2012

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, The basis of the American economy at its founding, and for many years  
2 thereafter, was rooted in an agrarian society, an important legacy for Rhode Islanders and all  
3 Americans to remember; and

4           WHEREAS, America's top exporting industry is agriculture. U.S. farmers and ranchers  
5 produce more than 200 raw commodities yearly for domestic and export markets. Each year, one  
6 American farmer provides enough food and fiber for 144 people; and

7           WHEREAS, Agriculture is a way of life for many Americans, with 99 percent of U.S.  
8 farms and ranches owned by individuals and family partnerships or corporations; and

9           WHEREAS, Agriculture as an industry has actively pursued new methods and  
10 technologies which not only increase productivity, but also conserve natural resources.  
11 Agriculture contributes to environmentally-friendly efforts by producing crops suitable for  
12 making biodegradable plastics, and by recycling chemical containers, feed bags, and food by-  
13 products; and

14           WHEREAS, More than 1,200 farms in all five counties in Rhode Island contribute to our  
15 state's well-being, economy, and heritage. Rhode Island's greenhouses and nurseries lend beauty  
16 to our homes and gardens in the form of flowers and plants. Our dairy farms provide milk,  
17 cheese, and other products we consume daily around our dinner tables. Vegetables and fruits from  
18 Rhode Island's many farms help us stay healthy; and

19           WHEREAS, The great majority of farms in Rhode Island are held by individuals and  
20 families who strive to continue a tradition of working the land. These Rhode Island farmers not

1 only endeavor to provide us with what we need to eat, wear, and use on a daily basis, but also  
2 conduct tremendous outreach efforts to schools, communities, and organizations to remind us  
3 how agriculture contributes meaningfully to our everyday lives; now, therefore be it

4           RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
5 recognizes the value of agriculture in Rhode Island. We thank the women and men who dedicate  
6 themselves to providing for Rhode Islanders the bounty that comes from agricultural products;  
7 and be it further

8           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to  
9 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Janet Coit, Director of the Rhode Island  
10 Department of Environmental Management.

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