



1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The stability and livelihood of farms and family  
3 farmers, the food and fiber industry, and the food processing,  
4 commodity marketing, and agriculture-related industries of  
5 this State have been endangered by severe drought conditions  
6 during the 2005 growing season; and

7 WHEREAS, On July 27th, 2005, United States Department of  
8 Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns designated 102 Illinois  
9 counties as agriculture disaster areas due to the drought, and  
10 the United States Drought Monitor indicates that Illinois  
11 remains in an extreme drought that has greatly impacted the  
12 productivity of Illinois crops and this State's economy; and

13 WHEREAS, Illinois' food and fiber industry employs nearly  
14 one million people, food processing is the State's number-one  
15 manufacturing activity adding almost \$13.4 billion annually to  
16 the value of Illinois' raw agricultural commodities, and the  
17 marketing of Illinois' agricultural commodities generates more  
18 than \$9 billion annually for the State economy; and

19 WHEREAS, Billions more dollars flow into this State's  
20 economy from agriculture-related industries, such as farm  
21 machinery manufacturing, agricultural real estate, and  
22 production and sale of value-added food products, which employ  
23 millions of people; and

24 WHEREAS, The declaration of Illinois counties as  
25 agriculture disaster areas due to the drought allows some  
26 indirect relief to qualified producers in the form of  
27 eligibility for low interest federal and State emergency loan  
28 programs that allow producers to borrow moneys for production  
29 and physical losses; notwithstanding these programs, a  
30 comprehensive national Crop Disaster Program that authorizes  
31 direct disaster payments to producers could provide better,

1 more immediate, and more uniform protection to farmers against  
2 natural disasters and drought conditions; and

3 WHEREAS, It is in the best interests of the State of  
4 Illinois and the United States to provide the best protections  
5 available to the vital agricultural sector of our economy;  
6 therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
8 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
9 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge the United States  
10 Congress to promote and protect agriculture in Illinois and  
11 throughout the United States by passing a comprehensive  
12 national Crop Disaster Program that includes direct disaster  
13 payments to producers and that includes disaster payments to  
14 Illinois producers who suffered a loss during the 2005 growing  
15 season; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
17 presented to each member of the Illinois Congressional  
18 delegation, the Speaker of the United States House of  
19 Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States  
20 Senate, and the President of the United States.