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SENATE RESOLUTION No. 101
BY BANKS

A Senate Resolution calling for the removal of the deputy secretary of agriculture.

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship is a major state agency of government, responsible for encouraging, promoting, and advancing the interests of agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the department acting over its administrative units, is entrusted with an annual budget of more than \$25 million and employs more than 400 employees responsible for performing vital functions essential to the economic security of the state, including the conservation of agricultural resources, regulating and supporting animal industry, promoting agricultural development and marketing, and ensuring sound agricultural practices, and safe agricultural products; and

WHEREAS, in recent years the department has endured an internal management style that threatens the department's capability to develop and implement policies that inspire public confidence in the long-term future of agriculture as an economic activity as well as a way of life, as required pursuant to section 159.2 of the Iowa Code; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly considered legislation during the 1995 session which eliminated the position of Deputy Secretary of Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the working climate of the department has deteriorated to a point that on December 5, 1995, Dr.

S.R. 101

1 Charlene Bell, Ed.D., a private consultant employed by
2 the department, submitted a letter to Secretary of
3 Agriculture Dale M. Cochran recommending that Deputy
4 Secretary Shirley M. Danskin-White be removed from
5 office, after Dr. Bell conducted interviews of
6 directors and other staff in preparation for a
7 planning session relating to the department's future;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, the department has been paralyzed by
10 Deputy Secretary Danskin-White's adversarial micro-
11 management of its functions, which has, as confirmed
12 by Dr. Bell, inhibited communications among the
13 agency's administrative units and created a climate of
14 fear of reprisals among its employees, to a point of
15 crisis; NOW THEREFORE,

16 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That Secretary of
17 Agriculture Dale M. Cochran is urged to remove Deputy
18 Secretary Danskin-White from the position of Deputy
19 Secretary, and immediately act to restore integrity,
20 confidence, and morale within the department necessary
21 for the department to carry out its purpose and to
22 position itself for the future; and

23 BE IT RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be
24 sent by the Secretary of the Senate to the Secretary
25 of Agriculture Dale M. Cochran.

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