

3-31-97 agriculture
4-1-97 No Pass
FILED MAR 27 1997
5-Adopted 4/21/97

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 11
2 BY BARTZ
3 A Concurrent Resolution requesting the United States
4 government ensure that the Farm Service Agency
5 of the United States Department of Agriculture be
6 supported and structured in a manner that preserves
7 the efficient operation of the agency at the
8 community level.
9 WHEREAS, the Farm Service Agency of the United
10 States Department of Agriculture provides essential
11 services to agricultural producers in rural
12 communities, including providing loans, providing crop
13 insurance, and administering commodity programs; and
14 WHEREAS, the Farm Service Agency is one of the most
15 efficient and cost-effective agencies in the federal
16 government which provides services through county
17 offices which with small budgets and a strong
18 commitment to service have assisted communities for
19 more than sixty years; and
20 WHEREAS, the workload for county offices has
21 steadily increased, especially since the enactment of
22 the federal 1996 Farm Bill and other federal
23 legislation which depends upon the vital role of
24 county offices to deliver services to producers; and
25 WHEREAS, there has been a continuing effort to
26 reduce budgets and cut staff in county offices as part
27 of an effort to reduce the size and restructure the
28 organization of the United States Department of
29 Agriculture; and
30 WHEREAS, the United States Department of

S. C. R. 11

S.C.R. 11

1 Agriculture proposes to close forty to fifty offices
2 in this state during the next two-year period as part
3 of a process requiring one thousand office closings
4 and a total staff reduction of two thousand eight
5 hundred fifty in the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, the proposal provides for reducing offices
7 and staff based on geographic factors rather than on
8 an analysis of how to most effectively deliver
9 services and meet the needs of producers; and

10 WHEREAS, the effect of this proposal will be to
11 frustrate a producer's ability to obtain essential
12 services in a timely and efficient manner, and which
13 will have a negative impact on the economies of rural
14 communities; and

15 WHEREAS, the President of the United States and the
16 United States Congress have expressed a philosophy
17 supporting the decentralization of the federal
18 government and eliminating waste in centralized
19 bureaucratic enclaves rather than at a level where
20 services are provided by neighbors; and

21 WHEREAS, Congress has expressed a strong commitment
22 to the delivery of services by county offices by
23 initiating a moratorium which currently prevents the
24 implementation of this devastating proposal; NOW
25 THEREFORE,

26 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, THE HOUSE OF
27 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the United States
28 Department of Agriculture reexamine its proposal to
29 close Farm Service Agency county offices and that the
30 Congress of the United States fully support the

S.C.R. 11

1 delivery of vital services provided by county offices
2 in a manner that preserves the efficient operation of
3 the agency at the community level; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
5 resolution be sent by the Secretary of the Senate to
6 the President of the United States; the Secretary of
7 Agriculture, United States Department of Agriculture;
8 the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the
9 United States; the chairman of the United States
10 Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
11 Forestry; the chairman of the United States House of
12 Representatives Committee on Agriculture; and members
13 of Iowa's congressional delegation.

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