

## **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

Whereas the ability of farmers and ranchers in the United States to join together in cooperative self-help efforts is vital to their continued economic viability;

Whereas Federal laws have long recognized the importance of protecting and strengthening the ability of farmers and ranchers to join together in cooperative self-help efforts, including to cooperatively market their products, ensure access to competitive markets, and help achieve other important public policy goals;

Whereas farmer- and rancher-owned cooperatives play an important role in helping farmers and ranchers improve their income from the marketplace, manage their risk, meet their credit and other input needs, and compete more effectively in a rapidly changing global economy;

Whereas farmer- and rancher-owned cooperatives also play an important role in providing consumers in the United States and abroad with a dependable supply of safe, affordable, high-quality food, fiber, and related products;

Whereas farmer- and rancher-owned cooperatives also help meet the energy needs of the United States, including through the production and marketing of renewable fuels such as ethanol and biodiesel;

Whereas there are nearly 3,000 farmer- and rancher-owned cooperatives located throughout the United States with a combined membership representing a majority of the nearly 2 million farmers and ranchers in the United States; and

Whereas farmer- and rancher-owned cooperatives also contribute significantly to the economic well being of rural America as well as the overall economy, including accounting for as many as 250,000 jobs: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*  
 2 *concurring)*, That it is the Sense of the Congress that pub-  
 3 lic policy should continue to protect and strengthen the  
 4 ability of farmers and ranchers to join together in coopera-  
 5 tive self-help efforts—

6            (1) to improve their income from the market-  
 7        place and their economic well-being;

8            (2) to capitalize on new market opportunities;  
 9        and

10           (3) to help meet the food and fiber needs of  
 11        consumers, provide for increased energy production,  
 12        promote rural development, maintain and create

1 needed jobs, and contribute to a growing United  
2 States economy.

Passed the Senate November 16, 2006.

Attest:

*Secretary.*

109<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

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**S. CON. RES. 119**

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

Expressing the sense of Congress that public policy should continue to protect and strengthen the ability of farmers and ranchers to join together in cooperative self-help efforts.