

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 458

Commemorating May 15, 2012, as the sesquicentennial of the founding of
the Department of Agriculture.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 10, 2012

Mr. JOHANNIS (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. ROBERTS) submitted the
following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Commemorating May 15, 2012, as the sesquicentennial of
the founding of the Department of Agriculture.

Whereas, on May 15, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln
signed into law an Act that established a Department of
Agriculture (12 Stat. 387, chapter 72);

Whereas President Lincoln gave the Department of Agri-
culture general authority to acquire and spread useful in-
formation on agricultural subjects and to assist in the de-
velopment and use of new and valuable seeds and plants;

Whereas, in 1862, President Lincoln also signed into law the
Act entitled “An Act to secure homesteads to actual set-
tlers on the public domain” (commonly known as the
“Homestead Act of 1862”; 12 Stat. 392, chapter 75) and
the Act of July 2, 1862 (commonly known as the “First
Morrill Act”; 12 Stat. 503, chapter 130), which, along

with the creation of the Department of Agriculture, lay the foundation for Federal agricultural policy;

Whereas, in the 1850s, there was 1 farmer for every 2 people in the United States, while today the average farmer in the United States feeds more than 150 people;

Whereas the United States is now the second largest producer and the largest exporter of agricultural products in the world;

Whereas the role of the Department of Agriculture has expanded to include functions impacting nearly every aspect of the rural United States and beyond;

Whereas the Department of Agriculture helps to ensure the safety of the food supply of the United States, provides conservation assistance, collects market data, provides nutrition assistance, protects the health of plants and animals, supports rural communities, conducts agricultural research, maintains risk management tools for producers, and promotes agricultural exports; and

Whereas the professionalism, dedication, and work ethic of the public servants at the Department of Agriculture provide a shining example of why President Lincoln called the Department of Agriculture the “People’s Department”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) congratulates the men and women of the
3 Department of Agriculture on the occasion of the
4 150th anniversary of the Department;

5 (2) celebrates the growth and success of agri-
6 culture in the United States; and

1 (3) honors the farmers and ranchers of the
2 United States, whose ingenuity, adaptability, and
3 skill have created the safest and most abundant food
4 supply in the history of mankind.

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