COMMITTEE REPORT

March 23, 2017

**H. 3696**

Introduced by Reps. V.S. Moss, Yow, Hiott, Kirby, Ott, Atkinson, Hewitt, Burns, Chumley, Long, Duckworth and Hixon

S. Printed 3/23/17--S.

Read the first time February 23, 2017.

**THE COMMITTEE ON**

**AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

To whom was referred a Concurrent Resolution (H. 3696) to memorialize the United States Congress to take certain measures to ensure that science‑based data is used to assess impacts on and the regulation of modern agricultural technologies to include, etc., respectfully

**REPORT:**

That they have duly and carefully considered the same and recommend that the same do pass:

DANIEL B. VERDIN III for Committee.

**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO MEMORIALIZE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO TAKE CERTAIN MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT SCIENCE‑BASED DATA IS USED TO ASSESS IMPACTS ON AND THE REGULATION OF MODERN AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES TO INCLUDE, BUT TO NOT BE LIMITED TO, CROP PROTECTION CHEMISTRIES, GENETICALLY ENGINEERED OR ENHANCED TRAITS, AND NUTRIENTS, AND OPPOSE LEGISLATION OR REGULATORY ACTION THAT MAY RESULT IN UNNECESSARY RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF CERTAIN MODERN AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES.

Whereas, a sustainable agricultural system in the United States is critical to the continued production of food, feed, and fiber to meet both domestic and global demands; and

Whereas, the treatment, prevention and control of agricultural pests is critically important to the health and welfare of our residents and the safety of our global food, feed, and fiber supply; and

Whereas, the availability of modern agricultural technologies such as precision farming equipment, crop protection chemistries, genetically engineered or enhanced traits, and agricultural nutrients are critically important tools that allow farmers to expand yields, reduce environmental impacts, improve profitability, and provide a safe, healthy, abundant, and affordable food supply; and

Whereas, the agriculture and food production industries have a long history of success and safety in protecting and further enhancing the food, feed, and fiber supply of South Carolina residents and the world; and

Whereas, the agricultural industry is recognized as an important contributor to the economic vitality of the State of South Carolina through jobs, capital investment, farm income, value‑added sectors, and contributions to the state’s tax base; and

Whereas, the crop‑protection industry is among the most studied and regulated of all industries at both the state and federal levels; and

Whereas, the continued success of these industries and our nation’s position as a world leader in crop protection chemistries, genetically engineered, or enhanced traits and nutrients depends on state and federal regulators utilizing science‑based data to assess both product and ingredient safety; and

Whereas, sound science rather than the “precautionary principle” should be the bedrock of our nation’s regulatory scheme. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring,

That members of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina memorialize the United States Congress to support and adopt legislation that requires the use of science‑based data to assess the impacts and the regulation of modern agricultural technologies including, but not limited to, crop protection chemistries, genetically engineered or enhanced traits, and nutrients.

Be it further resolved that the members of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina oppose legislative or regulatory action that may result in unnecessary restrictions on the use of modern agricultural technologies including, but not limited to, crop protection chemistries, genetically engineered, or enhanced traits and nutrients that are not based on sound science.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to each member of the South Carolina Congressional Delegation.

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