



SENATE RESOLUTION 01-011

BY SENATOR(S) Musgrave, Hillman, Anderson, Andrews, Arnold, Chlouber, Cairns, Dennis, Dyer (Durango), Epps, Evans, Gordon, Hanna, Hernandez, Lamborn, Linkhart, Matsunaka, May, Nichol, Owen, Perlmutter, Phillips, Reeves, Taylor, Teck, Thiebaut, and Tupa.

CONCERNING ENCOURAGING COLORADO'S CONGRESSIONAL
DELEGATION TO SUPPORT FUNDING OF THE U.

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture has established the Agricultural Research Service's (ARS) Central Great Plains Research Station (CGPRS) in Akron, Colorado, which research station is also affiliated with the Colorado State University Experiment Station; and

WHEREAS, The CGPRS was established in 1907 in a county that currently has approximately 1,450 farm families and a total population of approximately 4,700 individuals; and

WHEREAS, The Central Great Plains region encompasses portions of 4 states, comprising some 55 million acres in eastern Colorado, western Nebraska, southeastern Wyoming, and western Kansas; and

WHEREAS, The mission of the CGPRS is to develop long-term, sustainable cropping systems for the farmers and agricultural community of the Central Great Plains region; and

WHEREAS, The people of the agricultural community in the Central Great Plains are environmental stewards of the land; and

WHEREAS, The CGPRS works to develop technology in order to keep the dryland farming profitable and environmentally sustainable and improve water, nutrient use efficiency, and resource protection and help the people maintain their role as stewards; and

WHEREAS, Through such research, the CGPRS also takes on the role of risktaker so that the farmers can be spared costs and potential loss of crops by experimenting with new methods that may improve the practice of farming; and

WHEREAS, The CGPRS also houses scientists from the U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service and staff from the Colorado State University cooperative extension and research program at its own cost, which cost is justifiable because of the cooperative value gained through joint efforts; and

WHEREAS, The ARS is funded only through federal dollars; and

WHEREAS, The current federal budget allocation to the CGPRS is \$1,242,000 and the 1991 allocation was \$1,122,000, representing an increase, over 10 years, of only \$120,000; and

WHEREAS, With the steady rise of inflation in the United States at an estimated rate of 4% annually, the CGPRS budget has been eroding over the last 10 years until now, in 2001, the CGPRS has found itself approximately \$300,000 short of real operating dollars because adequate consideration has not been given to rising inflation and the general increase in research costs due to health and safety and Environmental Protection Agency concerns; and

WHEREAS, The ARS currently employs 4 research scientists, 9 technical support personnel, one secretary, and one administrative assistant; and

WHEREAS, The ARS has a critical mass formula of 5 research scientists, meaning that the CGPRS is operating below critical mass, and in fact is now the smallest ARS location in the 7-state northern plains area; and

WHEREAS, Because we depend on the agricultural community to provide food, the continuation of research to improve farming methods, increase yields, and protect our natural resources is beneficial to all people; and

WHEREAS, Although less than one percent of the American population is involved in farming, the agricultural industry contributes over one trillion dollars to the United States economy; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-third General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

That we, the members of the Colorado Senate of the Sixty-third General Assembly, encourage the members of Colorado's Congressional Delegation to support increased funding of the Agricultural Research Service's Central Great Plains Research Station located in Akron, Colorado.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Resolution be sent to Colorado's Congressional Delegation, the Honorable Ann M. Veneman, Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, and Research Leader Merle Vigil of the ARS Central Great Plains Research Station.

Stan Matsunaka
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Karen Goldman
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE