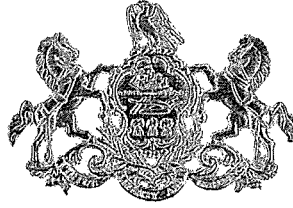


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Senate of Pennsylvania

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MAJORITY POLICY

MAY 01 2012

TO: All Senators

FROM: Senator Elder Vogel, Jr.

DATE: May 1, 2012

SUBJECT: Co-Sponsorship: Recognizing the 150th Anniversary of the United States Department of Agriculture

I will be reintroducing a resolution recognizing May 15, 2012, as the 150th Anniversary of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

On May 15, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed into law an “Act to Establish a Department of Agriculture.” As per the Act, the USDA was established “to acquire and to diffuse among the people of the United States useful information on subjects connected with agriculture in the most general and comprehensive sense of that word, and to procure, propagate, and distribute among the people new and valuable seeds and plants.” Since its inception, the mission of the USDA has expanded to encompass food, agriculture, natural resources and related policy issues, but it has remained rooted in the ideal of helping farmers achieve the best product possible with utmost ease and opportunity.

Because of the USDA, farmers have been able to become key players in the American economy. The USDA has also promoted greater agriculture education for farmers and non-farmers alike, boosted proper nutrition and health throughout the nation, and instituted stronger communication between the public and private sectors in an effort to better lead a constantly evolving agriculture system.

Please join me in cosponsoring this resolution by contacting Kacie Morrell at 787-3076 or by email at kmorrell@pasen.gov.

EV/klm