

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 44th Legislature (1994)

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 1083

By: Bass, Bonny, Kouba,
Langmacher and Lucas of
the House

and

Gustafson and Price of the
Senate

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution relating to the Grazinglands Research Laboratory; memorializing Congress to take immediate steps to prevent its closure; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Oklahoma economy was founded on agriculture and today it remains one of the state's largest and most far-reaching industries; and

WHEREAS, topographically and geographically Oklahoma's landscape varies from semi- and high plains of the panhandle to the wetter southeastern pine-rich forests; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma agriculture is diverse, ranging from heavy concentrations of animal feedlots, ranches and large-scale farms in the north and northwest to the flat heavily irrigated southwest section devoted mainly to cotton and wheat, the cross-timbered central sections where emphasis is on dairying and diversified farms of crops, such as peanuts and hay, and the eastern third of the state which produces an abundance of soybeans, pecans, poultry and

hard wood timbers to the southeastern section where the timber industry and small farms predominate; and

WHEREAS, because of its diversities, in order to maintain a solid agricultural industry and agricultural-related economy, as well as to stimulate growth, Oklahomans depend on studying, researching and experimenting to determine effectiveness, usefulness and practicability of various agricultural programs and practices including forage evaluations, animal nutrition, tillage, risk management, grazing systems and soils; and

WHEREAS, the Grazinglands Research Laboratory of the Agricultural Research System of the United States Department of Agriculture was established in El Reno, Oklahoma, in 1948; and

WHEREAS, the Grazinglands Research Laboratory in El Reno is ideally located for research on wheat pasture and warm-season grasses in a year-around grazing system; and

WHEREAS, the Grazinglands Research Laboratory is currently conducting studies on alternative complements to warm-season grasses for livestock production, the screening of legumes and cool-season grasses for the Southern Great Plains, alternative enterprises for marginal croplands and research on the environmental impact of grazing systems and/or disposal of municipal and agricultural waste; and

WHEREAS, the research at the Grazinglands Research Laboratory over the past decades have resulted in accomplishments assisting not only Oklahoma but other Southern Great Plains states; and

WHEREAS, the El Reno facility has invested in its infrastructure over \$4 million over the last 12 years; and

WHEREAS, the Grazinglands Research Laboratory is ideally suited to its El Reno location because of large holding of federal land that is in close proximity to a large population center and international airport, its close proximity to major state and private universities, its capacity to expand without large capital

outlays for office and laboratory space and its location to consolidate other agencies; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States, in the President's budget presented to Congress on February 8, 1994, recommended the closing of 22 United States Department of Agriculture - Agriculture Research Service locations of which the Grazinglands Research Laboratory was included; and

WHEREAS, the closing of the Grazinglands Research Laboratory would create a hardship and a devastating blow to the citizens of Oklahoma as well as citizens of other Southern Great Plains states and ultimately the Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 44TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature memorializes the Congress of the United States and the United States Department of Agriculture to initiate immediate steps to prevent the closure of the Grazinglands Research Laboratory in El Reno, Oklahoma, because of the great economic impact and effect on the quality of life of all residents in this state, the Southern Great Plains states and this nation.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the President of the United States of America, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, and to the members of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation.

44-2-9159

KSM