ENROLLED SENATE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 6

By: Price, Monson, Aldridge, Branan, Brogdon, Cain, Capps, Coates, Coffee, Corn, Crutchfield, Dunlap, Easley, Fair, Fisher, Ford, Gumm, Harrison, Helton, Hobson, Horner, Johnson, Kerr, Laughlin, Lawler, Leftwich, Littlefield, Maddox, Milacek, Morgan, Myers, Nichols, Pruitt, Rabon, Reynolds, Riley, Robinson, Rozell, Shurden, Smith, Snyder, Stipe, Taylor, Wilcoxson, Wilkerson, Williams and Williamson of the Senate

and

Covey, Adair, Adkins, Armes, Askins, Balkman, Benge, Blackburn, Blackwell, Bonny, Boren, Braddock, Brannon, Calvey, Carey, Cargill, Case, Claunch, Coleman, Cox, Dank, Davis, Deutschendorf, DeWitt, Dorman, Easley, Eddins, Ellis, Ericson, Erwin, Ferguson, Gilbert, Graves, Greenwood, Hamilton, Harrison, Hastings, Hefner, Hiett, Hilliard, Hutchison, Ingmire, Jones, Kirby, Lamons, Langmacher, Leist, Lerblance, Lindley, Liotta, Maddux, McCarter, McClain, McIntyre, Miller (Doug), Miller (Ray), Mitchell, Morgan (Danny), Morgan (Fred), Nance, Nations, Newport, O'Neal, Paulk, Perry, Peters, Peterson, Pettigrew, Phillips, Piatt, Plunk, Pope, Reynolds, Rice, Roan, Roberts, Roggow, Smaligo, Smith (Dale), Smith (Hopper), Smithson, Staggs, Stanley, Steele, Sullivan, Sweeden, Taylor, Tibbs, Toure, Trebilcock, Turner, Tyler, Vaughn, Walker, Wells, Wilson, Wilt, Winchester, Worthen, Wright and Young of the House

A Concurrent Resolution praising the accomplishments of REAP in promoting agriculture among African American and other culturally diverse youth; encouraging REYAP; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the late Sam Combs, Jr., a retired vocational agriculture teacher, was startled to discover that while there were 434 agriculture education instructors in 355 secondary schools and 353 FFA chapters with 22,000 students in Oklahoma, there were no longer African American agriculture educators and few African American agricultural students. Mr. Combs recruited four other retired vocational agricultural educators — W.G. Parker, James R. Johnson, M.E. Gamble, and A.W. Hampton — to form Retired Educators for Agricultural Programs (REAP), a community-based not-for-profit organization; and

WHEREAS, the mission of REAP was to promote opportunities in agriculture for African Americans and other culturally diverse youth. REAP values tradition, history, integrity, social responsibility, diversity, knowledge, excellence, and perseverance. REAP's vision is for African American and other culturally diverse youth to live the American dream as they become informed and inspired by opportunities in agriculture. REAP's goal is to build a foundation that promotes personal and economic opportunities in agriculture for Oklahoma's less advantaged youth through project development and partnerships with educational and other community resources; and

WHEREAS, from 2001 to 2002, 100% of REAP's senior summer interns enrolled in and attended college, Langston University's agricultural enrollment has increased 72%, and 46 minority students have joined FFA and 4-H; and

WHEREAS, REAP currently offers legislative paging opportunities, a summer intern program, job shadowing, training and workshops, and a Minority Youth in Agriculture Conference combined with a Blacks in Agriculture Recognition Luncheon. These programs reach more than 400 students each year; and

WHEREAS, under the new name of Retired Educators for Youth Agricultural Programs (REYAP), this organization seeks to develop a system for establishing local chapters, develop a plan for national growth, reach out to organizations and individuals that are nontraditional resources, create partnerships with other agricultural entities, establish education and career alternatives, establish a web site on the Internet, and develop a system for local and statewide marketing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 49TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature recognizes and praises the many accomplishments of REAP in promoting agriculture among African

American and other culturally diverse youth in the State of Oklahoma.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature encourages REYAP to actively pursue its goals and wishes it success in all its developmental endeavors.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Rita Combs, REAP/REYAP's Executive Director.

Adopted by the Senate the 13th day of February, 2003.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 18th day of February, 2003.

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Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives