

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 5

Introduced by Gragert, 40; Brewer, 43; Halloran, 33; Slama, 1.

WHEREAS, the One Hundred Sixth Legislature recognized the benefits of achieving more rapid and widespread adoption of soil-health management practices; and

WHEREAS, the One Hundred Sixth Legislature created a seventeen-member Healthy Soils Task Force to develop a healthy soils initiative for the State of Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, members of the Healthy Soils Task Force and stakeholders across Nebraska researched the soil-health programs and activities of other states, assessed current soil-health work in Nebraska, examined soil-health and related issues as specified by legislation, and developed a plan to build on and enhance existing programs; and

WHEREAS, the Healthy Soils Task Force focused on ways to increase profitability for producers and landlords while simultaneously protecting the environment for future generations without the need for mandates or regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Healthy Soils Task Force thinks by being proactive in addressing key agronomic and environmental issues that Nebraska might avoid the strict mandates and regulations found in other states; and

WHEREAS, growing interest exists for creating programs which reward producers to voluntarily implement practices to promote and conserve the health and quality of soil and water in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, a permanent healthy soils initiative and a central hub providing a single point of contact would benefit Nebraska and increase coordination, collaboration, and communication relating to soil-health advancement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature accepts the report, findings, and recommendations that the Healthy Soils Task Force submitted to the Governor and the Agriculture Committee of the Legislature.

2. That the Legislature supports and encourages a voluntary grassroots effort to accelerate means to protect and enhance Nebraska's soil and receive the benefits described in the report from the Healthy Soils Task Force.

3. That the Legislature encourages the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Natural Resources, and other state agencies to assist in the voluntary grassroots effort.