

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 440

Recognizing soil as an essential natural resource, and soils professionals as playing a critical role in managing our Nation's soil resources.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 31, 2008

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. CONRAD, and Mr. HARKIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

JUNE 23, 2008

Committee discharged; considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Recognizing soil as an essential natural resource, and soils professionals as playing a critical role in managing our Nation's soil resources.

Whereas soil, plant, animal, and human health are intricately linked and the sustainable use of soil affects climate, water and air quality, human health, biodiversity, food safety, and agricultural production;

Whereas soil is a dynamic system which performs many functions and services vital to human activities and ecosystems;

Whereas, despite soil's importance to human health, the environment, nutrition and food, feed, fiber, and fuel production, there is little public awareness of the importance of soil protection;

Whereas the degradation of soil can be rapid, while the formation and regeneration processes can be very slow;

Whereas protection of United States soil based on the principles of preservation and enhancement of soil functions, prevention of soil degradation, mitigation of detrimental use, and restoration of degraded soils is essential to the long-term prosperity of the United States;

Whereas legislation in the areas of organic, industrial, chemical, biological, and medical waste pollution prevention and control should consider soil protection provisions;

Whereas legislation on climate change, water quality, agriculture, and rural development should offer a coherent and effective legislative framework for common principles and objectives that are aimed at protection and sustainable use of soils in the United States;

Whereas soil contamination coupled with poor or inappropriate soil management practices continues to leave contaminated sites unremediated; and

Whereas soil can be managed in a sustainable manner, which preserves its capacity to deliver ecological, economic, and social benefits, while maintaining its value for future generations: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) recognizes it as necessary to improve knowl-
3 edge, exchange information, and develop and imple-
4 ment best practices for soil management, soil res-

1 toration, carbon sequestration, and long-term use of
2 the Nation's soil resources;

3 (2) recognizes the important role of soil sci-
4 entists and soils professionals, who are well-equipped
5 with the information and experience needed to ad-
6 dress the issues of today and those of tomorrow in
7 managing the Nation's soil resources;

8 (3) commends soil scientists and soils profes-
9 sionals for their efforts to promote education, out-
10 reach, and awareness necessary for generating more
11 public interest in and appreciation for soils; and

12 (4) acknowledges the promise of soil scientists
13 and soils professionals to continue to enrich the lives
14 of all Americans by improving stewardship of the
15 soil, combating soil degradation, and ensuring the
16 future protection and sustainable use of our air, soil,
17 and water resources.

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