

House Resolution No.

Whereas, Ben Austic of Brashear, Missouri, has been an esteemed member of the 2003-2004 Speaker's Agriculture Task Force which drew its membership from across the state to review, analyze, and assess agricultural issues confronting the Show-Me State; and

Whereas, with agriculture playing a dominant role in the state's economic foundation, the 2003-2004 Speaker's Agriculture Task Force met to discuss leading agriculture issues, offer recommendations regarding agriculture legislation and policy, and contribute to the betterment of the state; and

Whereas, Missouri has a wide range of climate and enjoys weather conditions which provide a good basis for growing crops and raising livestock; and

Whereas, Missouri is home to more than one hundred thousand farms, a statistic which ranks the state second in the nation in number of farms and which places five percent of all United States farms within the state's boundaries; and

Whereas, with thirty million acres of land used for agricultural purposes, Missouri produced \$4.82 billion in crops, livestock, poultry, and aquaculture and exported \$1.13 billion in agricultural products in 2001; and

Whereas, thanks in large measure to the productivity, knowledge, and practices of area farmers, Missouri ranks sixteenth in the value of its agricultural exports; and

Whereas, it is fitting and proper that the Missouri House of Representatives pause in its diverse legislative endeavors in order to commend the work of Ben Austic as a member of the 2003-2004 Speaker's Agriculture Task Force:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the commitment, time, and service so generously given by Ben Austic to the 2003-2004 Speaker's Agriculture Task Force and to convey this legislative body's heartiest best wishes for continued personal and professional success for many more years to come; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for presentation to Ben Austic of Brashear, Missouri.

Offered by Speaker Catherine L. Hanaway
District No. 87

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. _____, adopted _____, 2004.

Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker