

HCS HJR 11 & 7 -- Right to Farm

SPONSOR: Reiboldt

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Agriculture Policy by a vote of 15 to 0.

Upon voter approval, this proposed constitutional amendment affirms the right of farmers and ranchers to engage in modern farming and ranching practices. No law which abridges the right of farmers and ranchers to employ agricultural technology and modern livestock production and ranching practices may be enacted.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill protects agriculture, the largest industry in Missouri, and the food supply. It ensures the ability to feed the increasing population and provide consumer choice in food options.

Testifying for the bill were Representatives Reiboldt and Smith (150); Missouri Farmers Care; Missouri Federation of Animal Owners; Missouri Corn Growers Association; Poultry Federation; Missouri Pet Breeders Association; J.P. Dunn, Missouri Soybean Association; Missouri Farm Bureau; Chuck Massengill, Missouri Cattlemen's Association; Missouri Pork Association; Dale Amick, Southwestern Farm Equipment Dealers Association; and Missouri Family Network.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that the language in the bill is vague and the terms are undefined, leaving the provisions up to interpretation.

Testifying against the bill were Lynne Schlosser, Missouri Environmental Defense Alliance; and Missouri Alliance for Animal Legislation.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill provided a history of the legislative language.

Testifying on the bill was Tom Loehner.