

A RESOLUTION to express support for the UT AgResearch request of Tennessee's Fiscal Recovery Funds to address economic recovery of the state in areas related to agriculture and increase the resiliency of food supply systems and public health to lessen the impact of future zoonotic disease outbreaks for the state.

WHEREAS, for nearly 140 years, UT AgResearch has been the central incubator and economic engine that develops real life solutions so farmers and agricultural industries can supply affordable and wholesome food to the citizens of Tennessee, the United States, and beyond; and

WHEREAS, UT AgResearch's commitment to serving the number one industry in Tennessee has never been stronger; and

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic caused alarming shortages in meat, dairy, egg and other food product supplies nationwide and Tennessee unfortunately was no exception; and

WHEREAS, food insecurity increased dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, emerging infectious diseases with pandemic potential are a major threat to global health security with significant impacts on global economic and social development; and

WHEREAS, this request is a new initiative targeted to enhancing UT AgResearch infrastructure and equipment necessary to accelerate economic recovery across the state in multiple areas related to agriculture and food security and increase the resiliency of agricultural and food supply systems against future zoonotic disease outbreaks in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, modernization or procurement of these crucial facilities and equipment will enable ground-breaking, life-changing research that will serve the evolving needs of the producers and citizens of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the proposed AgResearch initiatives will allow for the development and implementation of new technologies designed to minimize food supply chain disruptions, increase food independence through locally grown food, sustain local economic prosperity, and maintain jobs and thus family income through diversified employment opportunities; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the University of Tennessee Commission on Agriculture lends its unwavering support for the UT AgResearch request of Tennessee's Fiscal Recovery Funds in order to aid the state in addressing critical agricultural related infrastructure and research needs.