

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2321

To authorize the designation of the facility under development by the Stanislaus Ag Center Foundation, in Stanislaus County, California, as the National Ag Science Center.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 15, 2007

Mr. CARDOZA (for himself, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. NUNES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To authorize the designation of the facility under development by the Stanislaus Ag Center Foundation, in Stanislaus County, California, as the National Ag Science Center.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Ag Science
5 Center Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL AG SCIENCE CENTER**

7 **IN STANISLAUS COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.**

8 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The State of California is a preeminent pro-
2 ducer of more than 350 different agricultural com-
3 modities, including more than 90 percent of all of
4 the tomatoes and grapes produced in the United
5 States, all of the commercial almonds, dates, figs, ol-
6 ives, cling peaches, prunes and raisins produced in
7 the United States, and one out of every five glasses
8 of milk consumed in the United States.

9 (2) California is the leading State in terms of
10 agricultural exports, annually shipping more than \$7
11 billion dollars worth of agricultural commodities
12 around the world.

13 (3) The total investment by California's 78,500
14 farms in terms of direct and indirect economic im-
15 pact is staggering, and, if California is going to keep
16 its agricultural industry strong and vibrant, it must
17 focus on the needs of farmers who are valuable con-
18 tributors to the economic, social, and cultural life of
19 the State and the United States.

20 (4) Since 1945, agricultural land has been rap-
21 idly disappearing across California, as soil erosion,
22 urbanization, the growth of deserts, and salinization
23 have all contributed to loss of productive farmland.
24 If these trends continue, California will no longer be
25 able to supply food for its population, let alone the

1 United States, and will be unable to export food to
2 the rest of the world.

3 (5) As Americans grow more and more de-
4 tached from the great agrarian history of the United
5 States, fewer Americans understand the funda-
6 mental importance of agriculture to American soci-
7 ety.

8 (6) Educating young Americans about agri-
9 culture and its importance to the United States na-
10 tion is an investment that will pay off in future ben-
11 efits.

12 (7) Greater public understanding and apprecia-
13 tion of the importance of agriculture to California,
14 the United States, and the world is needed to secure
15 a positive future, in which the United States can
16 rely on healthy food that is produced domestically.
17 Citizens of all ages, especially youth, must play a
18 meaningful, hands-on role in determining the future
19 of California agriculture.

20 (8) As planners, conservationists, and other in-
21 terested persons around the State of California orga-
22 nize to help protect agricultural resources, the pro-
23 posed National Ag Science Center in Stanislaus
24 County, California, is preparing to educate and alert
25 future generations about the need to preserve agri-

1 cultural land and to foster an understanding of the
2 importance of agriculture.

3 (9) The mission of the National Ag Science
4 Center will be to provide exciting and fun agricul-
5 tural learning opportunities and resources in order—

6 (A) for young people to learn how a vi-
7 brant agricultural economy is necessary for a
8 vibrant society;

9 (B) to prepare young people for career and
10 leadership opportunities in agriculture; and

11 (C) to assure a bright future for all as-
12 pects of the agriculture industry.

13 (10) According to findings of the Center for
14 Public Policy Studies at California State University,
15 Stanislaus, the National Ag Science Center will cre-
16 ate or support up to 359 new local jobs, create or
17 support up to \$57,500,000 in economic activity and
18 \$15,200,000 in labor income through construction of
19 the new facility, generate as much as \$8,500,000 in
20 total annual economic activity, and result in as much
21 as \$3,400,000 in total annual labor income.

22 (11) On September 14, 2005, the Yosemite
23 Community College District Board, in Stanislaus
24 County, California, voted unanimously to approve
25 the dedication of a 3.5 acre site on the West Cam-

1 pus of Modesto Community College for the National
2 Ag Science Center.

3 (12) Establishment of the National Ag Science
4 Center is in the national interest, as the proposed
5 Center will enable future generations to help assure
6 a healthy and profitable place for agriculture in the
7 economy of California and the United States.

8 (b) DESIGNATION.—The facility under development
9 by the Stanislaus Ag Center Foundation, in Stanislaus
10 County, California, may be known and designated as the
11 “National Ag Science Center”.

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