

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:

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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