

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2235

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 25, 2007

Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To designate 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 that—

1 (1) the State of California is a preeminent pro-
2 ducer of more than 350 different agricultural com-
3 modities, including—

4 (A) more than 90 percent of all of the to-
5 matoes and grapes produced in the United
6 States;

7 (B) all of the commercial almonds, dates,
8 figs, olives, cling peaches, prunes, and raisins
9 produced in the United States; and

10 (C) 1 out of every 5 glasses of milk con-
11 sumed in the United States;

12 (2) California is the leading State in terms of
13 agricultural exports, annually shipping more than
14 \$7,000,000,000 in agricultural commodities around
15 the world;

16 (3) the total investment by the 78,500 farms in
17 the State of California, in terms of direct and indi-
18 rect economic impact, is staggering;

19 (4) if California intends to keep its agricultural
20 industry strong and vibrant, the State must focus on
21 the needs of farmers who are valuable contributors
22 to the economic, social, and cultural life of the State
23 and the United States;

24 (5) since 1945, agricultural land has been rap-
25 idly disappearing across California, as soil erosion,

1 urbanization, the growth of deserts, and salinization
2 have all contributed to loss of productive farmland;

3 (6) if those trends continue, California will no
4 longer be able to supply food for its population, let
5 alone the United States, and will be unable to export
6 food to the rest of the world;

7 (7) as people in the United States grow more
8 and more detached from the great agrarian history
9 of the United States, fewer of those people under-
10 stand the fundamental importance of agriculture to
11 society in the United States;

12 (8) educating young people in the United States
13 about agriculture and its importance to the United
14 States is an investment that will pay off in future
15 benefits;

16 (9) greater public understanding and apprecia-
17 tion of the importance of agriculture to California,
18 the United States, and the world is needed to secure
19 a positive future, in which the United States can
20 rely on healthy food that is produced domestically;

21 (10) citizens of all ages, especially youth, must
22 play a meaningful, hands-on role in determining the
23 future of California agriculture;

24 (11) as planners, conservationists, and other in-
25 terested persons around the State of California orga-

1 nize to help protect agricultural resources, the pro-
2 posed National Ag Science Center in Stanislaus
3 County, California, is preparing to educate and alert
4 future generations about the need to preserve agri-
5 cultural land and to foster an understanding of the
6 importance of agriculture;

7 (12) the mission of the National Ag Science
8 Center will be to provide exciting and fun agricul-
9 tural learning opportunities and resources in order—

10 (A) for young people to learn how a vi-
11 brant agricultural economy is necessary for a
12 vibrant society;

13 (B) to prepare young people for career and
14 leadership opportunities in agriculture; and

15 (C) to ensure a bright future for all as-
16 pects of the agriculture industry;

17 (13) according to findings of the Center for
18 Public Policy Studies at California State University,
19 Stanislaus, the National Ag Science Center will cre-
20 ate or support up to 359 new local jobs, create or
21 support up to \$57,500,000 in economic activity and
22 \$15,200,000 in labor income through construction of
23 the new facility, generate as much as \$8,500,000 in
24 total annual economic activity, and result in as much
25 as \$3,400,000 in total annual labor income;

1 (14) on September 14, 2005, the Yosemite
2 Community College District Board, in Stanislaus
3 County, California, voted unanimously to approve
4 the dedication of a 3.5 acre site on the West Cam-
5 pus of Modesto Community College for the National
6 Ag Science Center; and

7 (15) establishment of the National Ag Science
8 Center is in the national interest, as the proposed
9 Center will enable future generations to help ensure
10 a healthy and profitable place for agriculture in the
11 economy of California and the United States.

12 (b) DESIGNATION.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The facility under develop-
14 ment by the Stanislaus Ag Center Foundation, in
15 Stanislaus County, California, shall be known and
16 designated as the “National Ag Science Center”.

17 (2) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law,
18 map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of
19 the United States to the facility under development
20 referred to in paragraph (1) shall be deemed to be
21 a reference to the National Ag Science Center.

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