

By: Representative Robinson

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING
2 SANDERSON FARMS UPON THE CELEBRATION OF ITS 75TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY.

3 WHEREAS, Sanderson Farms, the only Fortune 1000 company that
4 is headquartered in the State of Mississippi, more specifically
5 Laurel, and the nation's third largest poultry producer and one of
6 the most successful businesses started in the Magnolia State, is
7 celebrating its 75th year anniversary; and

8 WHEREAS, the humble roots of Sanderson Farms began in Laurel,
9 Mississippi, with D.R. Sanderson, who was affectionately referred
10 to as Mr. Bob, and his two young sons, Dewey and Joe Frank, Sr.,
11 in whom he instilled a staunch work ethic that would later become
12 a pivotal part of the Sanderson Farms success story; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1947, Mr. Bob, who had been operating a family
14 grocery store for several years, decided to try a new business
15 venture and opened a farm supply business in Laurel, Mississippi,
16 and his son, Joe Frank, Sr., joined the farm supply business in
17 1951, and introduced his family to the poultry business, and from



18 this introduction, they decided to close the farm supply business
19 and made the chicken business the company's only focus; and

20 WHEREAS, in 1955, the first feed mill and hatchery was built
21 and the business was incorporated as Sanderson Brothers Farms and
22 in 1961, the company merged with Miss Goldy, Inc., a poultry
23 processing center, and from this merger, Sanderson Farms was
24 formed, and in 1965, a poultry complex was built in the City of
25 Laurel - the very same city where the Sanderson Farms legacy had
26 its genesis at the feed and seed store only 17 years earlier; and

27 WHEREAS, in 1969, another generation of the Sanderson family
28 was brought into the business as Joe Frank, Sr., introduced his
29 son, Joe Frank, Jr., to the business just as his father, Mr. Bob,
30 had done for him, thus, continuing the family business legacy; and

31 WHEREAS, after continued company growth, Joe Frank, Sr.,
32 succeeded his father, Mr. Bob, as president in 1982, and after
33 serving as president for two years, Odell Johnson was named
34 president in 1984, as he was a dedicated employee who had begun
35 working for the company in 1958, and identified with the Sanderson
36 family emphasis on integrity and treating others right; and

37 WHEREAS, in 1985, the elder Sanderson, Mr. Bob, passed away,
38 and he is credited with developing the company from a small feed
39 and seed store to one of the largest poultry companies in the
40 country due in large part to his savvy operational tactics and
41 conservative fiscal policies; and



42 WHEREAS, yet another generation of Sanderson leadership
43 emerged as Joe Frank, Jr., was named president in 1989, and
44 continued the company's undeniable success as he honed the 20
45 years of experience he gained before taking the helm as president
46 while staying aligned with his family's legacy of unparalleled
47 growth, quality products and being responsive to customer needs;
48 and

49 WHEREAS, in 1998, after much success in leading Sanderson
50 Farms, Joe Frank, Jr., transitioned to the role of chairman of the
51 board, and in 2004, the company's fifth president, Lampkin Butts,
52 was named as he had been with the company since 1973, and has made
53 contributions in various positions throughout his tenure; and

54 WHEREAS, also in 1998, Joe Frank, Sr., passed away followed
55 by his brother, Dewey, in 1999, leaving behind a legacy that can
56 be looked to as a fine example of Sanderson family leadership; and

57 WHEREAS, under the leadership of Butts and Joe Frank, Jr.,
58 the company has continued to grow, and since 1993, Sanderson Farms
59 has built more poultry complexes than any other company in the
60 nation, and during its 75 years, has built nine poultry complexes,
61 acquired four processing facilities and has spanned its operations
62 to five states and 17 different communities, encompassing 12
63 processing facilities, 11 hatcheries, nine feed mills and one
64 prepared foods division - all achieved by executing the plan of
65 prudent growth and fiscal reasonability; and



66 WHEREAS, with more than 17,000 employees and working with
67 1,000 independent family farmers, the company remains a
68 family-oriented business much like the feed and seed store where
69 it first planted its roots over 75 years ago all while executing
70 the company's principles of hard work, honesty, integrity and
71 respecting the dignity of others, all of which has truly served
72 Sanderson Farms well while simultaneously providing economic
73 development and job opportunities for others:

74 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
75 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
76 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Sanderson
77 Farms upon the celebration of its 75th year anniversary, and wish
78 its leadership and employees continued success in all their future
79 endeavors.

80 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
81 furnished to Sanderson Farms and to the members of the Capitol
82 Press Corps.

