

2023 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 728

Offered February 16, 2023

Commending Southern States Cooperative.

Patron—Ware

WHEREAS, for 100 years, Southern States Cooperative, a farmer-owned agricultural cooperative, has provided products, services, and growing solutions for Virginian farmers; and

WHEREAS, the sobriquet Virginian has for centuries implied a life lived on the land cultivating crops or at least a life informed by the virtues of an agrarian culture; and

WHEREAS, Southern States Cooperative was founded in 1923 as Virginia Seed Service to supply to Virginian farmers seeds suitable for the growing conditions of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Seed Service quickly expanded its endeavors to include feed, fertilizer, and crop protection; wishing to extend its benefits to farmers in surrounding states, Virginia Seed Service assumed its present wide-range of purposes and, in the 1930s, became known as Southern States Cooperative; and

WHEREAS, Southern States Cooperative provides Virginian farmers and rural communities with agronomically sound, cost-effective, and environmentally responsible products and services to enable farmers to produce crops efficiently and to feed livestock well, to the benefit of the Commonwealth, the nation, and, indeed, the world; and

WHEREAS, Southern States Cooperative currently serves its farmer-members in eight states of the South; and

WHEREAS, in cooperation with locally owned cooperatives, Southern States Cooperative operates 34 locations in the Commonwealth and, combined with its central office in Henrico County, employs nearly 750 individuals throughout the Commonwealth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Southern States Cooperative for having achieved the notable milestone of 100 years of service to farmers and agribusinesses; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Southern States Cooperative as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for its legacy of contributions to Virginia's farmers and rural communities.

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