

1 HJR438  
2 119104-1  
3 By Representatives Hilliard, Todd, Moore (M), Rogers, Robinson  
4 (O), Scott, Coleman, McAdory, Newton (D), Moore (P), Drake,  
5 Treadaway, Canfield, McClurkin, DeMarco, Thomas (E), Oden,  
6 England, McCampbell, Fields, Jackson, Warren, Davis, Harper,  
7 Howard, Morrow and McLaughlin  
8 RFD: Rules  
9 First Read: 25-FEB-10

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8           URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO APPROPRIATE \$3  
9 MILLION FOR THE RENOVATION AND REVITALIZATION OF THE ALABAMA  
10 FARMERS MARKET.  
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12           WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Truck Growers  
13 Association has requested a \$3 million appropriation for the  
14 renovation and revitalization of the Alabama Farmers Market;  
15 the request was not included in President Barack Obama's 2011  
16 budget request; and

17           WHEREAS, the Alabama Farmers Market Renovation and  
18 Revitalization project would renovate the 54-year-old existing  
19 Alabama Farmers Market; the project includes plans to demolish  
20 three existing sheds, replacing them with  
21 refrigeration-equipped structures, to allow for perishables,  
22 including meat and fish; it would also add 25,000 square feet  
23 of tomato packing space to meet USDA standards; 38,800 square  
24 feet of space would be added for farmers from around the state  
25 to sell their products; and

26           WHEREAS, the project is necessary to revitalize the  
27 blighted ACIPO-Finley neighborhood, where the Alabama Farmers

1 Market is located; the expansions and improvements entailed  
2 would create dozens of new jobs for citizens of the  
3 neighborhood, the great majority of whom are low-income  
4 individuals; in addition to the direct job creation aspects of  
5 the project, an improved Farmers Market and newly vital  
6 neighborhood would provide a more inviting environment for new  
7 business investment in an area that desperately needs it; and

8 WHEREAS, the Alabama Farmers Market Renovation and  
9 Revitalization project has already obtained funding  
10 commitments as follows: \$200,000 from the Jefferson County  
11 Truck Growers Association; \$300,000 from the Alabama  
12 Department of Agriculture & Industries; \$500,000 from the City  
13 of Birmingham (specified for new entry road construction);  
14 this leaves a \$3 million financial feasibility gap, for which  
15 no federal grant opportunities are available; and

16 WHEREAS, in 2006, the United States Department of  
17 Agriculture provided funding for and assisted in the  
18 preparation of a feasibility study relating to the expansion  
19 and renovation of a Public Market on the current Alabama  
20 Farmers Market property; the study determined that the  
21 existing market must first be renovated and revitalized, prior  
22 to any such project's consideration; and

23 WHEREAS, the Alabama Farmers Market is one of the  
24 few such markets in the United States that remains operated by  
25 farmers and that operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week,  
26 and 365 days a year; now therefore,

1                   BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
2                   HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby urge the Congress of  
3                   the United States of America, in consideration of  
4                   appropriations for Fiscal Year 2011, to honor and grant the  
5                   request of the Jefferson County Truck Growers Association for  
6                   \$3 million in federal funding for the Alabama Farmers Market  
7                   Renovation and Revitalization project.

8                   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this  
9                   resolution will be provided to each member of Alabama's  
10                  Congressional Delegation.