

1 HR439
2 119092-1
3 By Representatives Hilliard, Todd, Robinson (O), Moore (M),
4 Scott, Coleman, McAdory, Rogers, Newton (D), Moore (P), Drake,
5 Treadaway, Canfield, McClurkin, DeMarco, Thomas (E), Oden,
6 England, McCampbell, Fields, Jackson, Warren, Harper, Howard,
7 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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
2 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we hereby urge the Congress
3 of 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.