

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 56th Legislature (2018)

3 SENATE
4 RESOLUTION 21

By: Pittman

5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Resolution to promote urban agriculture in
8 education and workforce development; and directing
9 distribution.

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11 WHEREAS, urban agriculture has numerous health, economic and
12 social benefits that can help transform individuals and communities;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, governmental and nongovernmental entities have turned
15 to urban agriculture in workforce development, education and therapy
16 programs; and

17 WHEREAS, urban agriculture is a collaborative effort that can
18 create positive changes in individual lives through leadership
19 development, teamwork, personal responsibility and a sense of
20 ownership and pride; and

21 WHEREAS, urban agriculture can improve individual health
22 outcomes by decreasing depression, promoting pro-social behavior and
23 increasing nutritional education; and
24

1 WHEREAS, promoting urban agriculture can create healthier people
2 with fewer medical needs; and

3 WHEREAS, urban agriculture benefits the community by creating
4 safe, productive and green environments in areas that are often
5 neglected, abandoned or underserved; and

6 WHEREAS, local food sales in the U.S. grew from Five Billion
7 Dollars (\$5,000,000,000.00) to Twelve Billion Dollars
8 (\$12,000,000,000.00) between 2008 and 2014 and urban agriculture
9 allows for local growers to benefit from this demand; and

10 WHEREAS, federal agencies, such as the U.S. Department of
11 Agriculture (USDA), recognize the importance of agriculture to the
12 development of health and wealth in the Black communities and have
13 established programs like USDA/1890 National Scholars Program to
14 increase the number of minorities studying agriculture, food,
15 natural resource sciences and related disciplines; and

16 WHEREAS, legislators can do more to promote the study of urban
17 agriculture and share its positive effects with the communities we
18 represent.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2nd SESSION
20 OF THE 56TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

21 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate supports increasing the promotion
22 of urban agriculture in education and workforce development.

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1 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate joins with Historically Black
2 Colleges and Universities to share the achievements of USDA/1890
3 Scholars.

4 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate promotes policies that use urban
5 agriculture as a health and wealth model.

6 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Governor,
7 the Lieutenant Governor and the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture,
8 Food, and Forestry.

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