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**ACADIANA LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION
STATE OF LOUISIANA**

P.O. Box 44500
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-4500

For Immediate Release
March 25, 2009
<http://house.louisiana.gov/acadiana/>

Contact: Rep. Jonathan Perry
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**ACADIANA DELEGATION ISSUES SUPPORT RESOLUTION FOR
AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY**

JEANERETTE, LOUISIANA—Today, during a meeting of state agriculture officials and regional farmers, the Acadiana Delegation issued a resolution of support for the agriculture and forestry community in the wake of budget cuts to the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the LSU AgCenters.

With statewide agencies facing funding cuts across-the-board, the Delegation recognizes the need for belt-tightening. We also see the need to fund those services and programs within the agriculture industry to a level that does not adversely impact the production and processing of our state's crops and food sources.

The Delegation is committed to working through the budgetary process for the interests of the agriculture and forestry industry.

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Attachment



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A Resolution by
Acadiana Legislative Delegation

To express the Acadiana Legislative Delegation's support for the advancement and the sufficient funding of the agriculture and forestry industry in the state of Louisiana for fiscal year 2009-10.

WHEREAS, the agriculture industry in Louisiana has been and continues to be a major contributor to the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, the agriculture industry has a nearly \$30 billion economic value to the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, proposed budget cuts for fiscal year 2009-10 to the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and to the LSU AgCenter would be detrimental to agricultural development, long-standing research and extension services afforded to the farmers and youth in all 64 parishes, while adversely impacting the quality, safety and affordability of the food supply for our citizens; and

WHEREAS, the LSU AgCenter implements a very effective 4-H youth development program impacting over 240,000 youth and 52,000 4-H club members in 64 parishes. This program is vital to the education and life skill development of Louisiana's future; and

WHEREAS, over 130 local police juries, consolidated governments, school boards, district attorney's and sheriffs in Louisiana are currently participating in and supporting cooperative agreements with the LSU AgCenter through Parish level programs; and

WHEREAS, through this partnership, research-based information is developed and transferred through an effective system in every parish using grass roots advisory councils that identify local needs, based on citizen involvement; and

WHEREAS, recommended budget cuts to the Department of Agriculture and Forestry cripples the ability of the department to eradicate the boll weevil and severely diminishes the ability of the state to detect and suppress wildland fires; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE Acadiana Legislative Delegation is committed to restoring sufficient funding to the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry and to the LSU AgCenter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping letters, positioned above a horizontal line.

CHAIR OF THE ACADIANA
LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION