

SJR14 INTRODUCED



1 SJR14
2 6Y5AP31-1
3 By Senator Chambliss
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 20-Jan-26



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4 SJR____ COMMENDING DREW AND LAUREN WENDLAND AS AMERICA'S TOP
5 YOUNG FARM FAMILY.

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7 WHEREAS, commendations and congratulations are herein
8 conveyed to Drew and Lauren Wendland on being named
9 America's Top Young Farm Family at the American Farm Bureau
10 Federation's (AFBF) Annual Convention on January 12th in
11 Anaheim, California; and

12 WHEREAS, the accolade honors the Wendlands' impact at
13 Autauga Farming Company (AFC) in Autaugaville, Alabama, Farm
14 Bureau involvement, civic service, and agricultural
15 advocacy; and

16 WHEREAS, The Wendland family farm includes row crops,
17 cattle and hay, timber, a fertilizer business, and custom
18 work for neighboring farms; Drew and Lauren's most precious
19 crop, however, includes sons Mills, Smith, and Rhett; and

20 WHEREAS, the Achievement Award competitors are
21 farmers between the ages of 18 and 35 and have received more
22 than half of their income from production agriculture; The
23 Wendlands qualified for the contest as winners of the
24 Alabama Farmers Federation 2025 Outstanding Young Farm
25 Family competition; and

26 WHEREAS, based on a thorough application, they were
27 named Top 10 Achievement Award finalists during AFBF
28 Convention; an interview with a panel of expert judges

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29 followed, ultimately leading to the Wendlands taking home
30 the overall achievement as Top Young Farm Family; and

31 WHEREAS, as Achievement Award winners, the Wendlands
32 receive \$35,000 toward a vehicle courtesy of Ford in
33 addition to the \$80,000 prize package they received as
34 winners of the state contest; and

35 WHEREAS, Drew is Autauga Farming Company's Crop
36 Production Manager; he is known for shrewd decision-making
37 that maximizes efficiency, profitability, and stewardship;
38 Drew's father, Andy, and youngest brother, Dan, each
39 contribute to the farm's operation in meaningful ways; in
40 addition to support work on the farm, Lauren is a family
41 nurse practitioner in Selma; and

42 WHEREAS, ties to the farm community tighten the
43 thread of agriculture woven through the Wendlands' life;
44 they serve within the Autauga County Farmers Federation and
45 its Young Farmers program, plus national organizations and
46 state entities, like the State Hay & Forage Committee; Drew
47 is a graduate of the elite A.L.F.A. Leaders program Class V;
48 and

49 WHEREAS, the Wendlands attend Church Street Methodist
50 in Selma; they are exemplary representatives of what the
51 Young Farmers program stands for, faith, family, and
52 farming; as a fifth generation farming family they work
53 together to honor the legacy of those who have come before
54 them while also looking to the future; now therefore,

55 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
56 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Drew and Lauren Wendland are



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57 commended for their many positive contributions to
58 agriculture in the State of Alabama and congratulated on
59 being named America's Top Young Farm Family, and this
60 resolution is offered in highest tribute to them along with
61 best wishes for success in all future endeavors.