

# HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 2

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By: **Delegates Pena–Melyk, Barnes, Benson, Braveboy, Davis, Dumais, Gaines, George, Griffith, Healey, Holmes, Howard, Hubbard, Ivey, Levi, Mizeur, Niemann, Proctor, Ramirez, Ross, V. Turner, Valderrama, Vallario, Vaughn, and Walker**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2008

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Henry A. Wallace Beltsville Agricultural Research Center and the National**  
3 **Agricultural Library**

4 FOR the purpose of describing and expressing the support of the Maryland General  
5 Assembly for the research and education programs of the Henry A. Wallace  
6 Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) and the National Agricultural  
7 Library (NAL); urging the Governor to request increased funding for BARC and  
8 NAL; and generally relating to BARC and NAL in Prince George’s County.

9 WHEREAS, BARC is the flagship location of the Agricultural Research Service  
10 and the largest and most comprehensive agricultural research center in the world; and

11 WHEREAS, The National Agricultural Library, located in the Abraham Lincoln  
12 Building, the world’s largest agricultural library, provides information and services to  
13 help citizens establish successful agro businesses and assists the public with guidance  
14 on gardening, animal care, organic farming, water quality, invasive species, sources of  
15 funding for rural communities, healthy diet choices, food safety, and other important  
16 issues; and

17 WHEREAS, BARC is the only Agricultural Research Service location in the  
18 United States, with research spanning all areas of food and agriculture, that impacts  
19 the lives of every resident of the Nation every day; and

20 WHEREAS, BARC employs 442 Prince George’s County residents and a total of  
21 943 people in the State of Maryland; and

22 WHEREAS, BARC has a total direct economic impact that exceeds \$250 million  
23 annually; and



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1 WHEREAS, NAL has a total direct economic impact that exceeds \$44 million  
2 annually; and

3 WHEREAS, In the past 10 years the federal pay scale has increased 42%; and

4 WHEREAS, Even when the annual appropriations of BARC and NAL include  
5 greater funds for salaries, the increase is usually less than sufficient to fund fully  
6 employee salaries, and it does not include an increase for benefits, which are a fixed  
7 percentage of an employee's total salary; and

8 WHEREAS, This lack of funding has resulted in the elimination of many  
9 positions and has led to a decrease in the total number of Ph.D. scientists, which has  
10 dropped from 390 to 259 since 1989; and

11 WHEREAS, In the past 10 years, the Consumer Price Index has increased 26%  
12 and over the same time period, increasing utility rates have resulted in BARC's utility  
13 costs increasing more than 40%, despite a 20% reduction in total energy usage; and

14 WHEREAS, In contrast, BARC's total appropriation has increased only 27% in  
15 the past 10 years; and

16 WHEREAS, As a result of these factors, BARC faced a situation in fiscal year  
17 2007 when about one-third of its research units could not meet their salary budget  
18 and it was necessary to downsize by 65 full-time employees, about 5% of its total  
19 employee population; and

20 WHEREAS, Any further cuts could send BARC into a "death spiral"; and

21 WHEREAS, The President's fiscal year 2008 budget request will very likely  
22 propose termination of \$9.5 million in projects at BARC plus additional terminations,  
23 which may be restored by Congress; and

24 WHEREAS, Given the current federal budget challenge, there most likely will  
25 be more cuts in the future; and

26 WHEREAS, Any terminations would seriously impact BARC's ability to  
27 function; and

28 WHEREAS, NAL, along with the Library of Congress and the National Library  
29 of Medicine, is one of only five national libraries; and

30 WHEREAS, Although the costs of purchasing books, journals, and other library  
31 materials have increased as much as 12% annually over the last two decades and  
32 while NAL's increases in staff costs have been similar to BARC's, NAL's appropriated  
33 budget has remained essentially constant in real terms since 1987; and

1           WHEREAS, NAL has been forced to reduce programs and services, abolish jobs,  
2 cancel thousands of journal subscriptions, and slow or eliminate purchases of  
3 equipment, books, and services; now, therefore, be it

4           RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the  
5 General Assembly supports the research and education programs of the Henry A.  
6 Wallace Beltsville Agricultural Research Center and the National Agricultural  
7 Library; and be it further

8           RESOLVED, That the General Assembly requests the Governor to urge the  
9 President of the United States to include a budget increase for, and the Maryland  
10 Congressional Delegation to secure funds for, the Henry A. Wallace Beltsville  
11 Agricultural Research Center and the National Agricultural Library so that these  
12 national treasures remain viable; and be it further

13           RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
14 Legislative Services to the Honorable Martin O'Malley, Governor of Maryland; the  
15 Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; the  
16 Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates; and to the Maryland  
17 Congressional Delegation: Senators Barbara A. Mikulski and Benjamin L. Cardin,  
18 Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and Representatives Wayne T.  
19 Gilchrest, C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger III, John P. Sarbanes, Albert R. Wynn, Steny  
20 Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Elijah E. Cummings, and Christopher Van  
21 Hollen, Jr., House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.