

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 93

Introduced by Murman, 38.

WHEREAS, Keith Berns of Bladen, Nebraska, is recognized for his outstanding contributions to soil conservation and is the recipient of the Nebraska Natural Resources Districts Outstanding Soil Conservation Award; and

WHEREAS, Berns has combined over twenty-five years of no-till farming experience with a decade of teaching agriculture and computer science, demonstrating his commitment to both the practice and education of sustainable farming techniques; and

WHEREAS, Berns co-owns and operates Green Cover Seed, one of the leading cover crop seed providers and educators in the United States, and has conducted extensive research on over one hundred twenty different cover crop species, analyzing their growth patterns, nitrogen fixation, moisture usage, and grazing potential; and

WHEREAS, Berns and his brother, Brian Berns, began experimenting with cover crops and studying water usage on their south-central Nebraska farm, leading to the founding of Green Cover Seed, which has since been at the forefront of advancing soil health practices; and

WHEREAS, Berns has maintained a one thousand five hundred acre farm that has been one hundred percent continuous no-till for over a decade, incorporating innovative cover crop strategies to improve soil structure, moisture retention, and nutrient cycling; and

WHEREAS, Berns has developed the SmartMix Calculator, one of the most widely used online cover crop selection tools, helping farmers nationwide make informed decisions about cover crop integration; and

WHEREAS, Berns holds a master's degree in Agricultural Education from the University of Nebraska and has dedicated himself to sharing knowledge on cover

crops and soil health; and

WHEREAS, Berns was appointed by Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts to serve on the Nebraska Healthy Soil Task Force and was honored to serve as its chairman, furthering the mission of soil conservation across the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature congratulates Keith Berns for receiving the Nebraska Natural Resources Districts Outstanding Soil Conservation Award for his dedication to soil conservation, sustainable agriculture, and education.
2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to Keith Berns.