A resolution in support of the "25 by '25"
initiative and the increased production of
renewable energy by the agricultural community.

WHEREAS, the role of agriculture as an energy producer
has the potential to positively influence national security
and trade imbalances, and

WHEREAS, an affordable, reliable, and plentiful energy
supply is critical to the economy of Florida, which ranks
third nationally in total energy consumption and possesses
vast resources of renewable energy, and

WHEREAS, the development of a broad spectrum of
renewable energy sources, including biodiesel, biomass,
methane digesters, and ethanol, is not only immensely
beneficial to the environment but also provides multiple
benefits to rural communities and agricultural sectors by
spawning additional markets for agricultural commodities;
increasing farm income; creating added-value uses for crops,
livestock, and their byproducts; using marginal lands more
productively; resolving air, water, and soil quality problems
that often arise from agricultural operations; improving
wildlife habitat; and creating new job opportunities, and

WHEREAS, American agriculture is strategically
positioned to play an expanded role in developing and
implementing new energy solutions; and, with appropriate
technological innovation, incentives, and investments, this
country's farms and ranches could well become the factories
that produce a new generation of fuels to help meet the
nation's energy needs, and

CODING: Words struck are deletions; words underlined are additions.
WHEREAS, "25 by '25" is an initiative that envisions American farms and ranches meeting 25 percent of America's energy demand by the year 2025, while continuing to produce abundant, safe, and affordable food and fiber, and

WHEREAS, "Farm to Fuel" is an initiative designed to encourage the use of Florida crops and biomass for production of energy for the state's future energy stability, protection of its environment, and continued viability of its agriculture industry, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

That the Senate supports the vision of "25 by '25," and encourages the production of renewable energy and fuels by farms and ranches to help meet future energy needs.