

**As Introduced**

**135th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2023-2024**

**S. R. No. 162**

**Senator Romanchuk**

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**A RESOLUTION**

Honoring Sugargrove Farm on being named a Bicentennial Farm.

WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the 135th General Assembly of Ohio are pleased to pay tribute to Sugargrove Farm on being recognized as a Bicentennial Farm by the Ohio Department of Agriculture, celebrated July 22, 2023; and

WHEREAS, This is, indeed, an important occasion, and it provides an ideal time to acknowledge the exceptional success and longevity of Sugargrove Farm. Founded by Benjamin Brubaker when he purchased five farms in the Black Fork Valley of the Mohican River in 1823, the farm has stayed in the family for two hundred years, and acknowledgement of this achievement by the Ohio Department of Agriculture is truly noteworthy; and

WHEREAS, All those associated with Sugargrove Farm are to be commended for their adherence to the highest ideals of agricultural service. Known and respected throughout Ashland County, Blake and Christine Rafeld are the sixth generation of the same family to own this land, and they have been diligent in caring for the farm, which was developed into the Sugargrove Tree Farm in 1984 to provide an opportunity for future generations to continue in Ohio's rich agricultural traditions. Their efforts to preserve this piece of our state's natural splendor and to serve their community are certainly deserving of high praise; and

WHEREAS, Agriculture is the backbone of this state's economy, and it is truly encouraging to know that its future lies, to a large extent, in the capable hands of conscientious individuals such as the members of the Brubaker and Rafeld family. We are certain that in the years to come, they will continue to display the same unwavering

commitment to excellence for which they have become known; therefore 27  
be it 28

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Senate of the 135th General 29  
Assembly of Ohio, in adopting this Resolution, applaud Sugargrove Farm 30  
as a Bicentennial Farm and salute it as a fine Ohio endeavor; and be 31  
it further 32

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit a duly 33  
authenticated copy of this Resolution to Sugargrove Farm. 34