

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

2007 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-86-2007

Proposed by The Chairman (by request – County Executive)

Introduced by Council Members Olson, Dernoga, and Turner

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction November 20, 2007

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Henry A. Wallace Beltsville Agricultural Research Center

3 and the National Agricultural Library

4 For the purpose of pledging the support of the County Executive of Prince George’s County and
5 the Prince George’s County Council for the research and education programs of the Henry A.

6 Wallace Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (“BARC”) and the National Agricultural

7 Library and to urge the Governor of the State of Maryland and the General Assembly of

8 Maryland to petition the President and the United States Congress for increased appropriations
9 for the same.

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

12 WHEREAS, the National Agricultural Library, located in the Abraham Lincoln Building, the
13 world’s largest agricultural library, provides information and services to help citizens establish
14 successful agricultural businesses and assists the public with guidance on animal care, organic
15 farming, water quality, invasive species, sources of funding for rural communities, healthy diet
16 choices, food safety and other important issues directly affecting the health, safety, and welfare of the
17 residents of Prince George’s County, the State of Maryland, and the United States; and

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

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

1 WHEREAS, BARC has a total direct economic impact that exceeds \$250 million annually; and
2 WHEREAS, the National Agricultural Library has a total direct economic impact that
3 exceeds \$44 million annually; and

4 WHEREAS, in the past ten years, the Federal pay scale has increased 42%. Even when annual
5 appropriations have included some increases for salary costs, usually, funding has been less than the
6 full increase required, and funding does not include an increase for benefits, which are a fixed
7 percentage of an employee's total salary. Funding reductions have resulted in many vacancies being
8 abolished. The total number of PhD scientists has dropped in the past 19 years, from 390 to 259; and

9 WHEREAS, in the past ten years, the Consumer Price Index has increased 26% and during the
10 same time period, increasing utility rates have resulted in BARC's utility costs rising by more than
11 40%, despite a 20% reduction in total energy usage. In contrast, BARC's total appropriation has
12 increased only 27% in the past ten years; and

13 WHEREAS, as a result of these factors, in Fiscal Year 2007 BARC faced a fiscal hardship in
14 which approximately one-third of its Research Units could not meet their salary budget and it was
15 necessary to downsize by 65 full-time employees (FTE's), about 5% of its total employee population.
16 Any further cuts beyond this could send BARC into a "downward spiral" for delivery of key services;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, it is highly likely that the President's Fiscal Year 2008 budget request will propose
19 termination of \$9.5 million in projects plus additional terminations, which may be restored by
20 Congress. The President's Fiscal Year 2009 budget request will most likely include similar reductions
21 given the current Federal budget challenge. Any such terminations as a result of reduced
22 appropriations would have a serious impact on BARC's continuing to function; and

23 WHEREAS, the National Agricultural Library is one of only three National libraries, the other
24 two being the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine; and

25 WHEREAS, although the costs of purchasing books, journals and other library materials have
26 increased as much as 12% annually over the last two decades, the National Agricultural Library has
27 experienced similar cost increases for staff costs to those of BARC; and the National Agricultural
28 Library appropriated budget has remained essentially constant in real terms since 1987; and

29 WHEREAS, the National Agricultural Library has been forced to reduce programs and services,
30 abolish jobs, cancel thousands of journal subscriptions and slow or eliminate purchases of equipment,
31 books, and services.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
2 County, Maryland, that the County Executive and the County Council do hereby declare their
3 support for the research and education programs of the Henry A. Wallace Beltsville Agricultural
4 Research Center and the National Agricultural Library; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the that the County Executive of Prince George's County
6 and the Prince George's County Council do hereby request the Governor of the State of Maryland and
7 the General Assembly of the State of Maryland to urge the President of the United States to include a
8 budget increase for and the United States Congress to appropriate funds to the Henry A. Wallace
9 Beltsville Agricultural Research Center and the National Agricultural Library adequate to stem the tide
10 of recent cuts in personnel and programs that have threatened the future viability of these national
11 treasures.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be forwarded by the Clerk of the
13 Council to the Governor of Maryland, the Maryland Senate President, the Maryland Speaker of
14 the House of Delegates, and the Prince George's County Senate and House Delegations of the
15 Maryland General Assembly.

Adopted this 20th day of November, 2007.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Camille A. Exum
Chair

ATTEST:

Redis C. Floyd
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: _____ BY: _____
Jack B. Johnson
County Executive