

RESOLUTION NO. 26-08-018

SPONSORED BY: Commissioners Brad Bowers, Jeff Jopling, Nick Bright, Steve Mikels, Mike Akard,
and Jessica Hannah

**A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ENACT A
PRIVATE ACT AUTHORIZING BLOUNT COUNTY TO IMPLEMENT MEASURES TO PRESERVE
FARMLAND AND RURAL PROPERTY**

WHEREAS, the majority of citizens of Blount County desire the preservation of the County’s rural character, natural beauty, and agricultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, Blount County seeks to explore mechanisms that would allow families who inherit rural property—specifically tracts of fifteen (15) acres or more—to retain such property without immediate pressure to sell or develop; and

WHEREAS, one such mechanism would include granting Blount County the authority to either (1) pay the applicable property taxes on inherited qualifying tracts for a period of up to three (3) years, or (2) purchase the property at fair market value at the conclusion of that period, thereby providing families with time and resources to preserve their land; and

WHEREAS, these measures would support the long-term conservation of farmland and open spaces, maintaining the scenic and rural character that citizens highly value; and

WHEREAS, in order to implement these measures, Blount County would require a private act from the Tennessee General Assembly authorizing the County to undertake such actions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BLOUNT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS THAT:

1. The Blount County Board of Commissioners hereby expresses its support for the “Protect Blount Farmland Act” and the goal of preserving farmland and rural landscapes within Blount County.
2. The Blount County Board of Commissioners formally requests that the Tennessee General Assembly enact a private act granting Blount County the authority to pay property taxes for up to three (3) years or to purchase inherited rural tracts of fifteen (15) acres or more, as described herein.
3. The Blount County Clerk and Commission Chair are authorized to transmit this resolution to the members of the Tennessee General Assembly representing Blount County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect upon passage, the public welfare requiring it.

CERTIFICATION OF ACTION

ATTEST

Commission Chairman

County Clerk

County Mayor

Date

- ☐ Approved
☐ Vetoed