Joint Resolution in Support of Seed Libraries

Whereas, humans have a history of saving and sharing seeds that have created and supported civilizations for over 10,000 years; and

Whereas seed libraries are a nonprofit repository of seed for the benefit of the public where free seed is distributed to promote seed sharing and seed education, provide increased access to healthy food, strengthen local food and seed security, improve the health of our community members, preserve and promote our local biodiversity, celebrate local varieties that are important to our community's cultural heritage and provide seed that is adapted to local soils and changing climate; and

Whereas seed libraries represent a local expression of seed sovereignty, allowing communities to conserve, preserve, and grow local seed diversity; and

Whereas seed libraries do not engage in the sale of seeds or present any risks to the commercial seed business or to agriculture; and

Whereas seed libraries are a natural extension of the role of public libraries, nonprofit organizations and educational institutions in promoting the free and widespread availability of knowledge, education and cultural literacy; and

Therefore be it resolved that the 2015 International Seed Library Forum considers the creation and operation of seed libraries an important component of our nation's food and agricultural system; and

Be it further resolved that the 2015 International Seed Library Forum supports the adoption and development of seed libraries into communities around the world.