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4 **Substitute for**
5 **House Concurrent Resolution No. 5037**

6
7 By Committee on Agriculture

8
9 2-26

10
11 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the federal government to
12 aggressively respond to the spread of karnal bunt in this country and
13 related trade issues [**and urging the United States Congress to**
14 **allow interstate marketing of state inspected meat**] [**and urging**
15 **the United States Congress to enact country of origin labeling**
16 **requirements**].

17 WHEREAS, Kansas is the nation's top wheat producing state; and

18 WHEREAS, The Kansas wheat crop is of primary importance and
19 concern to the Kansas Legislature; and

20 WHEREAS, The federal government should continue the national
21 voluntary survey to maintain exports to countries that require an addi-
22 tional declaration for karnal bunt; and

23 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture should de-
24 velop an adequate compensation package for those involved in the grain
25 production industry who unknowingly come into contact with karnal bunt.
26 Without clear assurance of adequate compensation, it is questionable
27 whether the decentralized system of reporting karnal bunt contamination
28 will reliably operate. Such reporting is essential to early detection and
29 containment of the disease; and

30 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture should en-
31 sure that karnal bunt-contaminated wheat is not allowed into the export
32 market system jeopardizing our ability to export wheat; and

33 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture should
34 take steps to ensure that karnal bunt does not spread beyond the acres
35 now affected and should encourage the use of best management practices;
36 and

37 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture should act
38 vigorously to break the disease cycle and make control of the disease the
39 short-term objective of federal policy; and

40 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture, in coop-
41 eration with the United States grain production industry, should invig-
42 orate its dialogue with our trading partners in pursuit of a long-term goal
43

1 of deregulation while maintaining the export and domestic markets and
2 should begin the process of declaring karnal bunt a quality issue; and

3 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture should
4 provide adequate funding for karnal bunt research and accomplish the
5 goals set forth in this concurrent resolution; and

6 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture should
7 provide leadership in conjunction with the grain production industry to
8 facilitate this country's response to the spread of karnal bunt; ~~Now, there-~~
9 ~~fore;~~ **and]**

10 **[WHEREAS, The Federal Wholesale Meat Act of 1967 allows**
11 **states to have state meat inspection programs which are required**
12 **to meet or exceed federal inspection standards of the United States**
13 **Department of Agriculture for wholesomeness, cleanliness and**
14 **food safety; and**

15 **[WHEREAS, Kansas is in the majority of states which have**
16 **elected to operate equivalent meat inspection programs allowing**
17 **state-licensed and state-inspected meat processing facilities to en-**
18 **gage in intrastate commerce. Other states are pursuing implemen-**
19 **tation of state inspection of their meat processing facilities; and**

20 **[WHEREAS, State meat inspection programs are flexible and**
21 **can efficiently and safely adapt their activities to small, local meat**
22 **processors that cannot be duplicated by the federal inspection pro-**
23 **gram because of its size and complexity; and**

24 **[WHEREAS, State-inspected meat and poultry products are**
25 **currently barred from interstate commerce under federal law, in-**
26 **cluding neighboring local markets in other states, despite current**
27 **meat safety and quality assurances, affecting long-range rural de-**
28 **velopment and economic growth strategies within the meat pro-**
29 **cessing industry; and**

30 **[WHEREAS, Such limitation on marketing of state inspected**
31 **meat inhibits economic development and value-added agricultural**
32 **activities in this nation's agricultural sector; and**

33 **[WHEREAS, Current policy of the National Association of State**
34 **Departments of Agriculture supports the interstate shipment of**
35 **state-inspected meat products; and**

36 **[WHEREAS, The Agriculture, Conservation, and Rural En-**
37 **hancement Act of 2001, currently pending before Congress, con-**
38 **tains provisions providing for country of origin labeling; and**

39 **[WHEREAS, The Kansas legislature supports provisions of the**
40 **Act which provide that:**

41 **["A retailer of a covered commodity shall designate the covered**
42 **commodity as having a United States country of origin only if the**
43 **covered commodity—**

1 [(A) in the case of beef, lamb, and pork, is exclusively from an
2 animal that is exclusively born, raised, and slaughtered in the
3 United States; and

4 [(B) in the case of farm-raised fish, is hatched, raised, har-
5 vested, and processed in the United States; and

6 [(C) in the case of a perishable agricultural commodities or
7 peanut, is exclusively produced in the United States”]; and

8 [WHEREAS, If another product is added to the covered com-
9 modity, the commodity could not be designated as a United States
10 country of origin; and

11 [WHEREAS, The American public is interested in and has the
12 right to know where food is produced; and

13 [WHEREAS, The United States Congress should amend the
14 current farm bill to include the country of origin labeling provi-
15 sions: Now, therefore,]

16 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas,*
17 *the Senate concurring therein:* That we urge the federal government to
18 aggressively respond to the spread of karnal bunt in this country and
19 related trade issues; and

20 [*Be it further resolved:* That we urge the United States Congress
21 to enact revisions to the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poul-
22 try Products Inspection Act to allow the interstate shipment and
23 marketing of meat products by state inspected meat processing
24 facilities; and]

25 [*Be it further resolved:* That we urge the United States Congress
26 to enact country of origin labeling requirements; and

27 [*Be it further resolved:* That we further urge Congress to amend
28 the current farm bill to include country of origin labeling require-
29 ments; and]

30 *Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of State be directed to send
31 an enrolled copy of this resolution to the President of the United States,
32 [the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of
33 the United States House of Representatives,] members of the Kansas
34 Congressional delegation, the Chairperson and ranking minority member
35 of the United States Senate and House of Representatives Agriculture
36 Committees, and the United States Secretary of Agriculture.

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