

SESSION OF 2005

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5005**

As Amended by Senate Committee of the Whole

Brief*

HCR 5005 would urge the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to reconsider the U.S. rule on cattle imports from Canada. The resolution speaks to the various animal disease issues which have impacted cattle imports from Canada, specifically the discovery of animals affected with Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) both in the United States and in Canada.

The resolution sets out criteria which should be met prior to the USDA implementing the BSE Minimal-Risk Regions rule. These criteria include:

- ! Prohibit the importation of cattle and beef products derived from cattle more than 30 months of age;
- ! Obtain assurances that all Canadian firewalls to prevent BSE, specifically adherence to their feed ban, are functioning properly;
- ! Require that no feeder cattle be imported until agreement is reached on harmonization of animal health standards;
- ! Movement of Canadian cattle into U.S. must be managed to minimize U.S. market disruptions;
- ! Require that no USDA grades and stamps be allowed on any imported beef product; and

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

- ! Receive assurance from our primary trading partner that expanded export access for U.S. beef is not in any way jeopardized by expanded importation of cattle and beef from Canada.

Further, the resolution indicates that the opening of the Canadian border may create long-term economic consequences that will be best addressed by the further opening of all world markets, and therefore the Administration must seek an immediate agreement to re-establish beef and beef by-product trade with Japan, Korea, and Mexico, and impose economic sanctions if necessary.

Background

At the hearing on the original resolution, the Secretary of Agriculture gave neutral testimony. Proponents included representatives of the Kansas Farmers Union and the Kansas Cattlemen's Association. Proponents also included two beef producers from Osage County. Opponents to the original resolution included representatives of the Kansas Farm Bureau and the Kansas Livestock Association. Conferees indicated to the Committee that compromise language had been developed by members of the Committee and interested groups. The House Agriculture Committee adopted the compromise language and adopted the resolution.

The major amendments to the resolution included those outlined above which address certain criteria to be met before the USDA implements the BSE Minimal-Risk Regions Rule, the language dealing with the need to open all world markets, and the elimination of language dealing with potential health risks.

The Senate Committee of the Whole amended the resolution to:

- ! Add as another reason for the resolution the fact that Japan has failed to abide by the October 23, 2004, agreement and meet its trade obligation under the agreement;
- ! Change the word "apply" to "impose" with relation to economic sanctions which may be necessary in further opening all world markets; and

! Add the United States Trade Representative as one of the recipients of the resolution.