

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 11

BY KUHN and WHITAKER

1 A Concurrent Resolution requesting the United States
2 government to take actions securing the integrity of
3 the nation's meat supply by restricting the
4 importation of ruminants and ruminant products into
5 the United States from Canada.

6 WHEREAS, on December 23, 2003, the Animal and Plant
7 Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the United States
8 Department of Agriculture made a preliminary diagnosis
9 of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in a dairy
10 cow in Washington state; and

11 WHEREAS, a subsequent investigation to trace the
12 origin of the cow determined that the cow was born on
13 a farm in Alberta, Canada, entering the United States
14 through Oroville, Washington; and

15 WHEREAS, on May 20, 2003, APHIS issued an order
16 prohibiting the importation of all live ruminants,
17 including cattle, and meat products derived from
18 ruminants from Canada; and

19 WHEREAS, the federal ban on the importation of
20 ruminants and products derived from ruminants from
21 Canada has continued in force; and

22 WHEREAS, on January 4, 2005, APHIS published a
23 final rule designating Canada as a minimal-risk
24 region, allowing the resumption of Canadian imports of
25 ruminants and meat products derived from ruminants;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, although on December 30, 2004, and January
28 11, 2005, the Canadian government announced the

HCR 11

1 existence of two additional cases of cows testing
2 positive for BSE, APHIS has refused to rescind or
3 modify its minimal-risk rule which was due to take
4 effect on March 7, 2005; and

5 WHEREAS, on March 2, 2005, the United States
6 District Court for the District of Montana granted a
7 preliminary injunction to prevent the implementation
8 of the minimal-risk rule, and APHIS has announced that
9 until pending litigation is resolved the import
10 restrictions on ruminants and products derived from
11 ruminants originating from Canada will remain in
12 effect; and

13 WHEREAS, beef and dairy cattle operators are family
14 farmers who provide wholesome and nutritious products
15 which are served on tables around the world and to
16 their own families; and

17 WHEREAS, it is vital that the United States
18 government, in cooperation with state governments and
19 beef and dairy cattle operators, is vigilant in
20 preserving confidence in our nation's meat supply by
21 maintaining a system of science-based firewalls to
22 foreign contaminants; NOW THEREFORE,

23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE
24 SENATE CONCURRING, That the United States Congress and
25 the United States Department of Agriculture
26 immediately reexamine the provisions of the rule
27 referred to as "Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy;
28 Minimal-Risk Regions and Importations of Commodities"
29 (Docket No. 03-080-3) for the purposes of rescinding
30 the rule and retaining prohibitions upon the

1 importation of certain ruminants and associated
2 products, including the importation of cattle, from
3 Canada until there is certainty that the integrity of
4 this nation's food supply remains beyond question; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
6 Resolution be sent to President of the United States;
7 the United States Secretary of Agriculture; and the
8 Administrator of the Animal and Plant Inspection
9 Service of the United States Department of
10 Agriculture; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
12 Resolution be sent to the President of the United
13 States Senate; the Speaker of the United States House
14 of Representatives; the Chairman of the Senate
15 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; the
16 Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee; and
17 Iowa's congressional delegation.

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