

House Concurrent Resolution No. 5037

By Special Committee on Agriculture

1-22

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the federal government to aggressively respond to the spread and eradication of Karnal bunt in the United States.

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

WHEREAS, As such, the wheat crop is of top concern to the Kansas legislature; and

WHEREAS, The federal government needs to continue the national voluntary survey to maintain exports to countries with quarantines against Karnal bunt; and

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture needs to develop an adequate compensation package for those involved in the grain industry who unknowingly come into contact with Karnal bunt. Without clear assurance of adequate compensation, it is questionable whether the decentralized system of reporting Karnal bunt contamination—reporting that is essential to early detection and containment of the disease—will operate reliably; and

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture needs to ensure that Karnal bunt-contaminated wheat is not allowed into the export market system so our ability to export wheat is not jeopardized; and

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture needs not only to take steps to ensure that Karnal bunt does not spread beyond the 8,000 acres now affected but also to take steps to eradicate Karnal bunt on this acreage. Eradication from the United States, not merely containment, should be the objective of our federal policy; and

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture needs to take the necessary actions to prevent the planting and growing of wheat or any other susceptible plant on any land that has been quarantined due to the presence of Karnal bunt. The United States Department of Agriculture needs to act vigorously to break the cycle of infection on the relatively small number of infected acres and to make eradication of this disease the objective of federal policy; and

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture should invigorate its dialogue with our trading partners in pursuit of the acceptance of a tolerance level for Karnal bunt and should begin the process of de-

1 claring Karnal bunt a quality issue; and

2 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture needs to
3 request more money for Karnal bunt research and for the construction
4 and operation of research facilities; and

5 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture needs to
6 appoint a person who is familiar with trade issues to lead the United
7 States' response to the spread of Karnal bunt: Now, therefore,

8 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas,*
9 *the Senate concurring therein:* That the federal government aggressively
10 respond to the spread and eradication of Karnal bunt in the United States;
11 and

12 *Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of State be directed to send
13 enrolled copies of this resolution to President George W. Bush, members
14 of the Kansas Congressional delegation, the Chairperson and ranking mi-
15 nority member of the United States Senate and House of Representatives
16 Agriculture Committees, and the United States Secretary of Agriculture.

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