

CHAPTER 214

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 5005

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the United States Department of Agriculture to reconsider the United States rule on cattle imports from Canada.

WHEREAS, Most export markets for United States beef were closed on Christmas Day, 2003 after one cow out of our nation's more than 96 million head of cattle tested positive for BSE; and

WHEREAS, That cow was a dairy cow imported from Canada; and

WHEREAS, Within 24 hours of that discovery 58 countries closed their border to American beef; and

WHEREAS, The shutdown of exports of approximately 2.58 billion pounds of American beef to these foreign markets has cost the U.S. economy more than an estimated \$3.3 billion a year; and

WHEREAS, The United States government and beef industry officials have worked mightily to reassure consumers and government officials throughout the world of the safety and wholesomeness of American beef; and

WHEREAS, Consequently, markets are beginning to reopen but much work remains to be done as most markets are still closed to American beef producers; and

WHEREAS, In January of 2005, two more cases of BSE have been found in Canada and an American governmental technical team has been sent to Canada to conduct investigation and analysis; and

WHEREAS, The USDA plans to lift the ban on importation of Canadian cattle into the United States and such action may have long-term economic consequences; and

WHEREAS, Japan has failed to abide by the October 23, 2004, agreement and meet its trade obligations under such agreement: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas, the Senate concurring therein:* That the following criteria shall be met prior to the USDA implementing the BSE Minimal-Risk Regions rule: (1) Prohibit the importation of cattle and beef products derived from cattle more than 30 months of age;

(2) obtain assurances that all Canadian firewalls to prevent BSE, specifically adherence to their feed ban, are functioning properly;

(3) require that no feeder cattle be imported until agreement is reached on harmonization of animal health standards;

(4) movement of Canadian cattle into U.S. must be managed to minimize U.S. market disruptions;

(5) require that no USDA grades and stamps be allowed on any imported beef product; and

(6) receive assurances from our primary trading partners that expanded export access for U.S. beef is not in any way jeopardized by expanded importation of cattle and beef from Canada; and

*Be it further resolved:* 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; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of State is directed to send enrolled copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, each member of the Kansas Congressional Delegation and the United States Trade Representative.

Adopted by the House March 15, 2005.

Adopted by the Senate March 9, 2005.

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