

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 7

INTRODUCED BY J. TESTER

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A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING THAT AN APPROPRIATE INTERIM COMMITTEE CONDUCT A MARKET STUDY TO DETERMINE THE POTENTIAL ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF PRODUCING GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS IN MONTANA.

WHEREAS, some of Montana's best customers, such as Japan, are discussing restrictions on the importation of crops that are considered genetically modified organisms (GMOs) or products derived from genetically modified organisms; and

WHEREAS, some of Montana's biggest competitors, such as Argentina, are discussing the possibility of creating GMO-free zones; and

WHEREAS, GMO canola has recently been released in Montana and GMO wheat is scheduled to be released in Montana during the next two years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

- (1) That an appropriate interim committee be requested to conduct a market study to determine:
  - (a) if there would be a marketing advantage to producers in Montana if Montana were declared a GMO-free zone;
  - (b) if Montana's current or potential commodity customers would buy more Montana crops if the state were a GMO-free zone, and if so, how much more;
  - (c) if Montana's current or potential commodity customers would be willing to pay more for crops that were certified GMO-free and grown in a GMO-free zone, and if so, how much more;
  - (d) if Montana's current or potential customers would take some of their business away from Montana if they could buy crops from GMO-free zones in other areas of the world, and if so, how much of their business;
  - (e) how much the production of GMO crops would cost or save an average Montana producer on a per-acre basis and on a per-bushel basis; and

1 (f) the potential advantages and disadvantages associated with the production of GMO crops in  
2 Montana.

3 (2) That the appropriate interim committee, prior to September 15, 2002, be requested to:

4 (a) prepare a report of its findings and conclusions; and

5 (b) identify options and make recommendations, including legislation if appropriate, to the  
6 Governor and the 58th Legislature.

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