

draft HB *Joint Resolution*

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2005 Montana Legislature
Joint Resolution

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING THE U.S. CONGRESS TO REJECT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S PROPOSAL TO RESUME LIVE CATTLE TRADE WITH CANADA UNTIL MONTANA PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS CAN BE ASSURED THAT THE FOOD SUPPLY IS SAFE FROM BSE AND CATTLE INDUSTRY OF MONTANA WILL NOT BE HARMED.

WHEREAS, Montana's beef industry is a significant contributor to the state's agricultural economy and vital to Montana's economy; and

WHEREAS, we rely on export markets in the Pacific Rim and elsewhere around the world; and

WHEREAS, the United States export markets have declined more the \$2 billion since the first Canadian cow with BSE was discovered in Washington state in 2003; and

WHEREAS, 70 percent of countries with a confirmed case of BSE have discovered additional infected animals after the initial outbreak; and

WHEREAS, Montana borders the province of Alberta, Canada, where all three cases of BSE-positive animals have originated; and

WHEREAS, Montana provides a trucking corridor to the south for all Alberta feedlots; and

WHEREAS, only 16,000 head of cattle have been tested for BSE in Canada compared to more than 170,000 in the U.S., despite the fact that all BSE-positive cases in North America have been discovered among the native Canadian herd; and

WHEREAS, Canada's MBM feed ban has not prevented several shipments of feed being turned back because of unknown animal parts, reports of 70 percent tested feed samples contained unknown animal proteins, and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency confirmed that the original BSE-positive Canadian cow discovered in May 2003 was rendered into animal feed and distributed to approximately 1800 Canadian farms; and

WHEREAS, Canada in early January 2005 confirmed a third BSE-positive animal, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced opening the border to imports of live Canadian cattle and further Canadian beef products.

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

- (1) That the United States Congress reject the current proposal by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to reestablish live cattle trade with Canada, within the 60-day review period, until extensive research and studies have been completed and specific measures met to assure the producers and consumers that the cattle industry of Montana will not be placed in jeopardy.
- (2) That international trade is re-established with the 47 countries that maintain their ban on U.S. beef and beef products, including our largest international customers, Japan and South Korea, prior to the U.S.-Canada border being opened.
- (3) That the United States Congress ban all meat and feed imports from countries that have not implemented and successfully enforced a 100 percent compliance rate with a ruminant-to-ruminant feed ban.
- (4) That Montana cattle producers are guaranteed an economic safety net if the importation of Canadian cattle negatively impacts profitability.
- (5) That the U.S. Department of Agriculture immediately finalize reasonable, cost-efficient and workable rules to implement mandatory country-of-origin labeling before any live cattle or further Canadian beef product imports resume.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send a copy of this resolution to the United States President, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the Montana Congressional Delegation.

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