

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 33

INTRODUCED BY A. OLSEN

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A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF THE EFFECTS OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED WHEAT ON MARKETS FOR MONTANA WHEAT; AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 65TH LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, Montana's wheat industry is a central and vital component of our state's economy; and
WHEREAS, wheat consistently tops exports of all Montana products in dollar value; and

WHEREAS, Montana has come to rely on export markets for many of its agricultural crops, including wheat;

WHEREAS, many of Montana's export customers have not yet accepted genetically engineered grains or have placed restrictions on importation of crops that are genetically engineered or products derived from genetically modified organisms; and

WHEREAS, more than 80% of Montana's wheat is exported to these sensitive markets; and

WHEREAS, agricultural producers in some other states have suffered financial losses when other countries have rejected shipments of their products because of cross-contamination by genetically engineered seeds; and

WHEREAS, trials of genetically engineered wheat are under way; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer has concluded that glyphosate, the active ingredient of an herbicide that is widely used on genetically engineered crops, is probably carcinogenic to humans; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the importance of maintaining foreign markets for Montana wheat.

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

That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, to examine the potential market effects of genetically engineered wheat in Montana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study review:



- 1 (1) the existing and potential export markets for Montana wheat;
- 2 (2) the degree to which import restrictions related to genetically engineered wheat are affecting or could
3 affect exports of Montana wheat, including the potential financial impact of the restrictions;
- 4 (3) the degree to which prohibitions on genetically engineered wheat could affect Montana wheat
5 producers and their exports, including the financial impacts of such prohibitions;
- 6 (4) the potential advantages and disadvantages associated with the production of genetically engineered
7 wheat in Montana, including but not limited to:
- 8 (a) the costs or savings to an average Montana wheat producer of producing genetically engineered
9 wheat on a per-acre and per-bushel basis;
- 10 (b) how Montana wheat prices would be affected by the introduction of genetically engineered wheat;
- 11 (c) if Montana wheat producers who do not grow genetically engineered wheat would be able to maintain
12 their nongenetically engineered markets;
- 13 (d) the reasons for the production of genetically engineered wheat and the ways in which genetically
14 engineered wheat benefits Montana producers, improves or increases production, and affect exports;
- 15 (e) whether and to what extent Montana's current or potential wheat customers may seek wheat from
16 genetically engineered-free zones in other areas of the world; and
- 17 (f) whether and to what extent Montana's current or potential commodity customers would buy more
18 Montana wheat if the state were a genetically engineered-free wheat zone and if wheat buyers would be willing
19 to pay more for nongenetically engineered wheat or for wheat grown in zone to be designated free of genetic
20 engineering; and
- 21 (5) the potential benefits of labeling, including but not limited to labeling to indicate that wheat is grown
22 in Montana.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study involve the Department of Agriculture, the Department of
24 Commerce, organizations representing Montana's agricultural interests, agricultural producers, and other
25 interested parties.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review
27 requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2016.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,
29 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 65th Legislature.

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