

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 30  
INTRODUCED BY M. TAYLOR

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DESIGNATE AN APPROPRIATE INTERIM COMMITTEE OR DIRECT SUFFICIENT STAFF RESOURCES TO EXAMINE MARKET ACCEPTANCE AND THE TIMING OF THE COMMERCIAL INTRODUCTION OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED WHEAT AND BARLEY INTO MONTANA, THE DEVELOPMENT OF CROPS AND CROP CHARACTERISTICS THAT APPEAL TO THE NEEDS OF THE CUSTOMER AND THAT ARE ECONOMICALLY BENEFICIAL TO THE PRODUCER, THE DEVELOPMENT OF SAFEGUARDS TO REDUCE OUTCROSSING AND POTENTIAL MIXING OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CROPS WITH NONGENETICALLY ENGINEERED CROPS, AND LIABILITY ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH THE PRODUCTION OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CROPS; REQUIRING THAT FINDINGS BE PRESENTED TO AND REVIEWED BY A COMMITTEE; PROVIDING THAT THE STUDY BE COMPLETED BY SEPTEMBER 15, 2004; AND PROVIDING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 59TH LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, Montana's wheat and barley industry is a central and vital component of our state's economy;  
and

WHEREAS, Montana's export markets have recognized Montana wheat and barley to be among the finest in the world; and

WHEREAS, Montana has come to rely on these export customers to market a majority of Montana's grain to Pacific Rim countries; and

WHEREAS, a majority of these customers have not yet accepted genetically engineered grains; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the importance of maintaining these foreign markets.

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, or direct sufficient staff resources to examine the economic and social impacts of the commercial introduction of genetically engineered wheat and barley into Montana, including issues related to:

(1) market acceptance and the timing of the commercial introduction of genetically engineered wheat

and barley;

(2) the development of wheat and barley and wheat and barley characteristics that appeal to the needs of the customer and that are economically beneficial to the producer;

(3) the development of safeguards to reduce outcrossing and potential mixing of genetically engineered wheat and barley with nongenetically engineered wheat and barley; and

(4) liability issues associated with the production and handling of genetically engineered wheat and barley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the entity conducting the study:

(1) invite participation by and involvement of interested and knowledgeable persons, including farmers, ranchers, property owners, industry representatives, and representatives of state and local governmental entities; and

(2) actively seek participation by citizens from all parts of Montana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, if the study is assigned to staff, any findings or conclusions be presented to and reviewed by an appropriate committee designated by the Legislative Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2004.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions, comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 59th Legislature.

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