

SENATE BILL NO. 349

INTRODUCED BY K. BOGNER

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TRADE OFFICE IN KOREA THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE; AND AMENDING SECTION 90-9-401, MCA."

WHEREAS, it is Montana's desire for the United States to move away from import and export dependence on certain Asian nations; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the United States exported \$65.7 billion in goods to the Republic of Korea; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Republic of Korea was the top export destination for United States beef; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of Korea stands as the 10th largest economy in the world, which presents a large economic trade opportunity for Montana companies for export; and

WHEREAS, Montana desires to expand its position in the Asian market, especially the Republic of Korea, through its robust agricultural production, growing manufacturing capabilities, and extractive renewable resources.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1.** Section 90-9-401, MCA, is amended to read:

**"90-9-401. Agricultural marketing enhancement.** As directed by the council, the department shall assist in identification and development of new domestic and foreign markets for Montana agricultural products.

This includes:

(1) assisting in placing one full-time professional marketing person in the Republic of Korea, and one full-time professional marketing person in Japan or another Pacific Rim country to develop export marketing opportunities in the Pacific region;

(2) providing assistance for appropriate trade missions of Montana producers, processors, or distributors of agricultural products on a cost-share basis; and

(3) assisting in other appropriate means of enhancing domestic markets for Montana agricultural

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