
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8010

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senators Rasmussen, Schoesler, Sheldon, Franklin, Roach, Spanel, Deccio, McAuliffe, Shin, Haugen, Prentice, Fairley, Rockefeller, Mulliken and Morton

Read first time 01/31/2005. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Rural Economic Development.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF
5 AGRICULTURE, MIKE JOHANNIS:

6 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
7 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
8 represent and petition as follows:

9 WHEREAS, On January 4, 2005, the United States Department of
10 Agriculture proposed a rule to reopen on March 7, 2005, the United
11 States border to the importation of Canadian live cattle and processed
12 beef products; and

13 WHEREAS, On January 11, 2005, Canada announced that yet another cow
14 in Alberta tested positive for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE);
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture has dispatched
17 a technical team to Canada to investigate the circumstances that
18 resulted in this additional infection including effective enforcement
19 by Canada of the 1997 ruminant-to-ruminant feed ban; and

1 WHEREAS, The only incident in the United States where a cow tested
2 positive with BSE was on December 23, 2003, and that animal originated
3 in Canada and unfortunately was shipped into Washington State; and

4 WHEREAS, The severe ramifications caused by this single animal was
5 the closure by many foreign markets to beef produced within the United
6 States; and

7 WHEREAS, Although progress has been made in reestablishing trust
8 with our Asian trading partners, many of these bans to the import of
9 beef from the United States continue in effect thirteen months after
10 this single incident; and

11 WHEREAS, Even though the United States has commenced a major BSE
12 testing program and no cattle indigenous to the United States have been
13 detected to have BSE, once these foreign markets are closed, they have
14 remained closed for prolonged periods of time; and

15 WHEREAS, Consumers in the United States continue to have confidence
16 in beef produced in the United States and maintaining the safety of
17 food supplies is the paramount concern to state and federal
18 governmental officials;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United
20 States Department of Agriculture delay moving forward with its plans to
21 reopen the border to Canadian cattle and beef products on March 7,
22 2005, until United States inspectors have had adequate time to conduct
23 a thorough examination of the Canadian cattle industry and issue and
24 fully evaluate their findings.

25 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
26 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
27 States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture,
28 Mike Johanns, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of
29 the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the
30 State of Washington.

--- END ---