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1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 32
2 BY BARTZ and McLAREN
3 A Senate Concurrent Resolution to urge the federal
4 government to ensure fair and competitive
5 market practices for the purchase of livestock
6 from producers by packers and livestock buyers.
7 WHEREAS, agriculture has traditionally represented
8 the foundation of this nation's economic prosperity,
9 providing a system unmatched in the world for the
10 abundant and affordable production of food, feed
11 grains, and animal products, which maintains this
12 nation's people and contributes billions of dollars in
13 revenue each year from export sales; and
14 WHEREAS, the production of livestock by this
15 nation's farmers and ranchers represents a key
16 component of this nation's prosperity, by providing
17 numerous value-added food and other products upon
18 which this nation depends; and
19 WHEREAS, the state of Iowa is a leading
20 agricultural state which has developed and is
21 expanding infrastructure for the production and
22 processing of livestock, by relying upon its abundant
23 supplies of feed grains and the management and
24 knowledge of its producers, to consistently rank among
25 the top livestock-producing states in the nation; and
26 WHEREAS, this system of livestock production, which
27 has contributed to the economic security of the United
28 States, depends upon farmers and ranchers competing in
29 fair and open markets which ensure that producers have
30 an equal opportunity to sell livestock to packers and

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1 buyers based on animal carcass merit rather than on
2 special pricing arrangements; and

3 WHEREAS, the practice of engaging in special
4 pricing arrangements between packers or buyers and
5 producers erodes this nation's system of open and fair
6 markets, by establishing arbitrary and inconsistent
7 pricing without public disclosure or price discovery,
8 and which, if allowed to replace the current system
9 and distort market forces, will create relationships
10 which, in some cases, will be unfair to producers and
11 in other cases will be unfair to packers and buyers;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, the United States Congress enacted the
14 Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921 as amended, 21
15 U.S.C. § 181 et seq., to ensure fair and competitive
16 pricing practices between packers or buyers and
17 producers; NOW THEREFORE,

18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, THE HOUSE OF
19 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the Congress of the
20 United States; the President of the United States; the
21 Secretary of Agriculture, United States Department of
22 Agriculture; and the Grain Inspection, Packers and
23 Stockyards Administration, United States Department of
24 Agriculture, ensure fair and competitive market
25 practices for the purchase of livestock by packers and
26 livestock buyers; and

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That pricing practices be
28 reviewed for purposes of developing and enforcing
29 standards and limitations regarding justifiable price
30 differences based on the time of delivery, transaction

1 volume, and private pricing arrangements under
2 contract; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the restrictions be
4 imposed upon payment for or acceptance of livestock by
5 packers or buyers based on preconditions such as the
6 method of production or the use of a genetic nutrition
7 program; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Grain Inspection,
9 Packers and Stockyards Administration, United States
10 Department of Agriculture, conduct a study evaluating
11 the effects of special pricing arrangements, including
12 marketing contracts, preferential pricing, and
13 packers' ownership or operation of livestock feeding;
14 and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
16 resolution be sent by the Secretary of the Senate to
17 the President of the Senate of the United States; the
18 Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United
19 States; the chairman of the United States Senate
20 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; the
21 chairman of the United States House of Representatives
22 Committee on Agriculture; members of Iowa's
23 congressional delegation; the President of the United
24 States; the Secretary of Agriculture, United States
25 Department of Agriculture; and the Administrator of
26 the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards
27 Administration, United States Department of
28 Agriculture.

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