

3/8/95 Business & Labor
3/15/95 amend/Do Pass W/S-3131
FILED MAR 8 1995
3/22/95 adopted

1 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 11
2 BY KIBBIE, GETTINGS, and HANSEN
3 A Resolution urging John Morrell and Company to honor
4 its commitment to provide health care coverage to its
5 retirees and their families.
6 WHEREAS, John Morrell and Company currently owns
7 and operates a meat-packing plant in Sioux Falls,
8 South Dakota, and has operated meat-packing plants in
9 Estherville, Iowa, and Ottumwa, Iowa; and
10 WHEREAS, through several collective bargaining
11 agreements with its employees, John Morrell and
12 Company consistently agreed to provide free guaranteed
13 health care coverage to workers and their families
14 upon the workers' retirement from John Morrell and
15 Company; and
16 WHEREAS, in September 1979, John Morrell and
17 Company entered into a collective bargaining agreement
18 with its employees, covering all retirees between
19 September 1, 1979, and September 1, 1985, and
20 providing these retirees with free guaranteed health

S.R. 11

SENATE RESOLUTION 11

S-3131

1 Amend Senate Resolution 11 as follows:
2 1. Page 2, by inserting after line 28 the
3 following:
4 "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of the
5 senate send copies of this resolution to John Morrell
6 and Company and to the Governors of Iowa and South
7 Dakota."

By COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND LABOR
RELATIONS
DICK L. DEARDEN, Chairperson

S-3131 FILED MARCH 15, 1995

adopted 3/22/95 P. 796

1 many of these retirees by letter dated January 23,
2 1995, that it had decided to unilaterally discontinue
3 free guaranteed health care coverage to many of its
4 retirees effective January 31, 1995; and

5 WHEREAS, employers have ethical responsibilities,
6 even apart from their legal obligations, to provide
7 for loyal employees and retirees who have dedicated
8 their working lives to their employers; and

9 WHEREAS, John Morrell and Company, in canceling
10 health care coverage for certain of its retirees, has
11 apparently decided to repay the efforts of its retired
12 workers by abandoning the retirees and their families;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Iowans have a strong sense of fair play
15 and justice and believe that promises and personal
16 commitments are binding upon the parties to such
17 promises and commitments, regardless of the alleged
18 ability of a party to negate such promises through
19 legal maneuvering; NOW THEREFORE,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Iowa Senate
21 express its outrage and alarm at the actions taken by
22 John Morrell and Company in revoking health care
23 coverage for Morrell retirees and their families.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That John Morrell and
25 Company is urged to reconsider its ethical obligations
26 to its former workers and decide to continue to comply
27 with its promises to these workers by providing health
28 care coverage to its retirees and their families.

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