

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 12
BY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 142)

A Concurrent Resolution requesting that the United States Congress take all action required to preserve free and private enterprise, prevent monopoly, and protect consumers by immediately enacting legislation to prohibit livestock packers from owning, controlling, or feeding livestock to such an extent that producers can no longer materially participate in the management of their livestock operations as provided in Senate Bill 27 introduced by the Honorable Senator Charles E. Grassley and cosponsored by the Honorable Senator Tom Harkin and others.

WHEREAS, the production and processing of livestock represent a key component of this nation's food security, welfare, and prosperity by providing an abundant supply of value-added products upon which this nation depends; and

WHEREAS, the State of Iowa is a leading livestock-producing state in the nation, which has ranked among the top third of states in red meat production and which has for generations been the principal pork-producing state in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the State of Iowa, like many neighboring Midwestern states, has a long-standing public policy of preserving farming, farmland, free enterprise, and open access to markets for its independent livestock producers; and

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1 WHEREAS, the independence and vitality of livestock
2 producers in this state and in other agricultural
3 states are facing increasing anticompetitive forces in
4 the meat packing industry, which forces are
5 accelerating consolidation among companies and are
6 resulting in a growing prevalence by these
7 consolidated companies to integrate all aspects of
8 livestock production under their control from the farm
9 and ranch to the consumer's table; and

10 WHEREAS, these consolidated companies in the meat
11 packing industry have virtually unlimited means to
12 challenge long-standing legislative barriers designed
13 to preserve competition in agriculture for all
14 producers and consumers against the self-serving
15 practices of some of these companies; and

16 WHEREAS, this challenge to state statutes, if not
17 restrained by federal legislative action, threatens to
18 impair the independence and ingenuity of this nation's
19 family farmers and ranchers, to eliminate the
20 opportunity to exercise entrepreneurial and risk-
21 taking decisions that are at the core of what it means
22 to be a family farmer or family rancher, and to
23 endanger the viability of communities in which they
24 live; and

25 WHEREAS, the Honorable Senator Charles E. Grassley
26 and the Honorable Senator Tom Harkin from Iowa have
27 long and distinguished records defending independent
28 farmers and ranchers, the economies of local
29 communities, and the welfare of consumers by leading
30 congressional efforts to prohibit companies in the

1 meat packing industry from owning, controlling, or
2 feeding livestock to such an extent that livestock
3 producers no longer have an opportunity to materially
4 participate in the management of their operations; and

5 WHEREAS, during debate on the federal farm bill in
6 2002, the United States Senate approved amendments
7 sponsored by Senators Grassley and Harkin together
8 with the honorable Senator Tim Johnson from South
9 Dakota to ban the vertical integration of the meat
10 packing industry; and

11 WHEREAS, since the conference committee that
12 considered the federal farm bill eliminated the
13 protections offered by these amendments, consolidated
14 companies in the meat packing industry are now in a
15 position to use their captive supplies of livestock to
16 limit access to markets, to manipulate prices paid to
17 independent farmers and ranchers and charged to
18 consumers, and to devastate this nation's traditional
19 system of open and free markets; NOW THEREFORE,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE
21 SENATE CONCURRING, That the United States Congress is
22 urged to immediately enact Senate Bill 27, as
23 introduced by Senator Grassley and cosponsored by
24 Senator Harkin and others, which amends the federal
25 Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 to prohibit livestock
26 packers from owning, controlling, or feeding livestock
27 to such an extent that livestock producers no longer
28 have the opportunity to materially participate in the
29 management of their operations; and

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this

1 resolution be sent by the Chief Clerk of the House of
2 Representatives to the Honorable Senator Charles E.
3 Grassley and the Honorable Senator Tom Harkin,
4 together with Iowa's congressional delegation in the
5 House of Representatives; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
7 resolution be sent to the President of the Senate of
8 the United States; the Speaker of the House of
9 Representatives of the United States; the Chair of the
10 United States Senate Committee on Agriculture,
11 Nutrition, and Forestry; and the Chair of the United
12 States House of Representatives Committee on
13 Agriculture; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
15 resolution be sent to the President of the United
16 States; the Secretary of Agriculture, United States
17 Department of Agriculture; and the Administrator of
18 the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards
19 Administration, United States Department of
20 Agriculture.

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HSB 142
Agriculture

By
HCR 12
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1 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. _____
2 BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE RESOLUTION
3 BY CHAIRPERSON DRAKE)
4 A Concurrent Resolution requesting that the United
5 States Congress take all action required to preserve
6 free and private enterprise, prevent monopoly, and
7 protect consumers including by immediately enacting
8 legislation to prohibit livestock packers from
9 owning, controlling, or feeding livestock to such an
10 extent that producers can no longer materially
11 participate in the management of their livestock
12 operations as provided in Senate Bill 27 introduced by
13 the Honorable Senator Charles E. Grassley and
14 cosponsored by the Honorable Senator Tom Harkin and others.
15 WHEREAS, the production and processing of livestock
16 represent a key component of this nation's food
17 security, welfare, and prosperity by providing an
18 abundant supply of value-added products upon which
19 this nation depends; and
20 WHEREAS, the State of Iowa is a leading livestock-
21 producing state in the nation, which has ranked among
22 the top third of states in red meat production and
23 which has for generations been the principal pork-
24 producing state in the nation; and
25 WHEREAS, the State of Iowa, like many neighboring
26 Midwestern states, has a long-standing public policy
27 of preserving farming, farmland, free enterprise, and
28 open access to markets for its independent livestock
29 producers; and
30 WHEREAS, the independence and vitality of livestock

1 producers in this state and in other agricultural
2 states are facing increasing anticompetitive forces in
3 the meat packing industry, which forces are
4 accelerating consolidation among companies and are
5 resulting in a growing prevalence by these
6 consolidated companies to integrate all aspects of
7 livestock production under their control from the farm
8 and ranch to the consumer's table; and

9 WHEREAS, these consolidated companies in the meat
10 packing industry have virtually unlimited means to
11 challenge long-standing legislative barriers designed
12 to preserve competition in agriculture for all
13 producers and consumers against the self-serving
14 practices of some of these companies; and

15 WHEREAS, this challenge to state statutes, if not
16 restrained by federal legislative action, threatens to
17 impair the independence and ingenuity of this nation's
18 family farmers and ranchers, to eliminate the
19 opportunity to exercise entrepreneurial and risk-
20 taking decisions that are at the core of what it means
21 to be a family farmer or family rancher, and to
22 endanger the viability of communities in which they
23 live; and

24 WHEREAS, the Honorable Senator Charles E. Grassley
25 and the Honorable Senator Tom Harkin from Iowa have
26 long and distinguished records defending independent
27 farmers and ranchers, the economies of local
28 communities, and the welfare of consumers by leading
29 congressional efforts to prohibit companies in the
30 meat packing industry from owning, controlling, or

1 feeding livestock to such an extent that livestock
2 producers no longer have an opportunity to materially
3 participate in the management of their operations; and
4 WHEREAS, during debate on the federal farm bill in
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6 sponsored by Senators Grassley and Harkin together
7 with the honorable Senator Tim Johnson from South
8 Dakota to ban the vertical integration of the meat
9 packing industry; and

10 WHEREAS, since the conference committee that
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10 Nutrition, and Forestry; and the Chair of the United
11 States House of Representatives Committee on
12 Agriculture; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
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15 States; the Secretary of Agriculture, United States
16 Department of Agriculture; and the Administrator of
17 the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards
18 Administration, United States Department of
19 Agriculture.

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