

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 59

BY WHITAKER

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3 A Resolution to urge that the President of the United  
4 States, the United States Department Of Agriculture,  
5 and the United States Congress take all necessary  
6 measures to prevent the spread of the soybean rust  
7 fungus into the United States, including by  
8 suspending any imports of soybean crops that  
9 originate in regions where the disease has been found  
10 to be present.

11 WHEREAS, soybean rust is the common name of two  
12 fungal species phakopsora pachyrhizi and phakopsora  
13 meibomiaie causing devastating yield losses in soybean  
14 production regions in both the eastern and western  
15 hemispheres; and

16 WHEREAS, the soybean rust fungus is reported in an  
17 increasing number of countries including numerous  
18 pacific nations such as Taiwan, Thailand, Japan, and  
19 Australia, as well as African countries such as South  
20 Africa and Zimbabwe, South American countries such as  
21 Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay, and even the state of  
22 Hawaii; and

23 WHEREAS, once introduced into a region, the soybean  
24 rust fungus rapidly spreads by wind-borne spores, and  
25 is difficult to control because of its similarity with  
26 other soybean diseases in its early stages and the  
27 large number of legume hosts that may harbor the  
28 disease, with 30 species in 17 genera of legumes  
29 reported to be hosts in nature; and

30 WHEREAS, since soybean rust fungus first appeared

HR 59

1 in Paraguay approximately four years ago, the disease  
2 has spread 1,000 miles into the western soybean  
3 production regions of Brazil and now is present in 80  
4 percent of Brazil's soybean production regions; and

5 WHEREAS, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection  
6 Service (APHIS) of the United States Department of  
7 Agriculture has issued an alert concerning the  
8 disease, declaring that nations where the soybean rust  
9 fungus is present report yield losses from 10 to 80  
10 percent; and

11 WHEREAS, the soybean rust fungus now threatens to  
12 travel to the continental United States, up from the  
13 Central American land bridge into Texas or by island  
14 hopping from Puerto Rico and Cuba to Florida; and

15 WHEREAS, a virulent strain of the soybean rust  
16 fungus could be carried by any number of sources,  
17 including crop debris, into the United States and  
18 particularly into midwest production areas, which  
19 could result in billions of dollars in losses in crop  
20 yields, increased food prices for American consumers,  
21 and reduced profits for American farmers; NOW

22 THEREFORE,

23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
24 That the Iowa House of Representatives urges and  
25 requests the President of the United States, the  
26 United States Department of Agriculture, and the  
27 United States Congress to take all necessary measures  
28 to prevent the spread of the soybean rust fungus into  
29 the United States, including by suspending any imports  
30 of soybean crops that originate in regions where the

1 disease has been found to be present; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this  
3 Resolution be sent to the President of the United  
4 States; the Secretary of Agriculture, United States  
5 Department of Agriculture; and the administrator of  
6 the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the  
7 United States Department of Agriculture; and

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

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this  
17 Resolution be sent to Iowa's congressional delegation.

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