

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 103

2 BY KIBBIE

3 A Concurrent Resolution to urge that the President of  
4 the United States and the United States Congress take  
5 all steps necessary to ensure that food is  
6 labeled with its country of origin by the end of  
7 2004.

8 WHEREAS, on May 13, 2002, President Bush signed  
9 into law the federal Farm Security and Rural  
10 Investment Act of 2002, more commonly known as the  
11 2002 Farm Bill (Pub. L. No. 107-171); and

12 WHEREAS, Title X, subtitle I, section 10816, of the  
13 2002 Farm Bill requires country of origin labeling for  
14 perishable agricultural commodities, including beef,  
15 pork, lamb, fruits and vegetables, fish, shellfish,  
16 and peanuts, which was to begin on September 30, 2004;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, the implementation of the mandatory  
19 country of origin labeling provisions is the  
20 responsibility of the Agricultural Marketing Service  
21 of the United States Department of Agriculture, which  
22 published proposed rules required to implement  
23 labeling requirements in the October 30, 2003, Federal  
24 Register; and

25 WHEREAS, a primary purpose of the law is to inform  
26 consumers of the origin of their food and to provide  
27 consumers an informed choice when purchasing domestic  
28 or imported agricultural products; and

29 WHEREAS, Japan, which is this nation's largest  
30 export market for beef, and South Korea, which is this

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1 nation's third largest export market for beef have  
2 both adamantly called for country of origin labeling  
3 information; and

4 WHEREAS, a complementary purpose of the law is to  
5 encourage exports of food products labeled as  
6 originating in this country, and especially meat  
7 products, which have earned a superior reputation  
8 among foreign consumers, and which would stimulate the  
9 development and promotion of additional branded  
10 products commanding higher prices for this nation's  
11 agricultural producers; and

12 WHEREAS, the economic viability and welfare of this  
13 nation depends upon a reliable system for the  
14 marketing of abundant and wholesome food products,  
15 including for consumers in this nation and foreign  
16 nations; and

17 WHEREAS, enormous political pressure has been  
18 exerted at the federal level by concentrated corporate  
19 retail and meatpacking interests, which have adopted a  
20 strategy of overestimating the costs and regulatory  
21 burdens of implementing a system that would ensure  
22 fair information to consumers and better provide a  
23 competitive environment for agricultural producers;  
24 and

25 WHEREAS, the United States Congress has passed  
26 legislation delaying the mandatory country of origin  
27 labeling for two additional years; NOW THEREFORE,

28 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, THE HOUSE OF  
29 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the President of the  
30 United States and the Congress of the United States

1 take all necessary action to ensure that food is  
2 labeled with its country of origin by the end of 2004;  
3 and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this  
5 Resolution be sent by the Secretary of the Senate to  
6 Iowa's congressional delegation; and

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

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