

FILED MAR 26 '03

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 13

2 BY HOUSER

3 A Concurrent Resolution urging the United States
4 Congress to hold hearings to investigate the impact of
5 mandatory country of origin labeling regulations and
6 to delay the date of compliance with the law.

7 WHEREAS, On May 13, 2002, the federal Farm Security
8 and Rural Investment Act of 2002, more commonly known
9 as the 2002 Farm Bill (Pub. L. No. 107-171) was
10 enacted into law; and

11 WHEREAS, one of the many initiatives of the 2002
12 Farm Bill requires country of origin labeling for
13 agricultural commodities including but not limited to
14 beef, pork, and lamb, to be administered by the
15 Agricultural Marketing Service of the United States
16 Department of Agriculture; and

17 WHEREAS, many Iowa livestock producers have serious
18 concerns about mandatory country of origin labeling
19 regulations which have arisen since the enactment of
20 the 2002 Farm Bill; and

21 WHEREAS, there is an increasing recognition of many
22 potentially adverse impacts of mandatory country of
23 origin labeling regulations, including but not limited
24 to serious issues associated with costs versus
25 benefits; tracking, auditing, and verifying perishable
26 products; and compliance; and

27 WHEREAS, both the Iowa cattlemen's association and
28 the national cattlemen's beef association do not
29 support a mandatory country of origin labeling system,
30 but remain supportive of a program that is voluntary

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1 and industry-driven; NOW THEREFORE,

2 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the United States
4 Congress is urged to hold hearings to investigate the
5 impact of mandatory country of origin labeling
6 regulations and to delay the date of compliance with
7 the law until the impact of the law has been
8 thoroughly studied and producers have been educated
9 about the responsibilities under any new labeling
10 system; and

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

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
15 Resolution be sent to the President of the Senate of
16 the United States; the Speaker of the House of
17 Representatives of the United States; the Chair of the
18 United States Senate Committee on Agriculture,
19 Nutrition, and Forestry; and the Chair of the United
20 States House of Representatives Committee on
21 Agriculture.

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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 13

S-3136

1 Amend Senate Concurrent Resolution 13 as follows:

2 1. Page 1, by striking lines 3 through 6, and
3 inserting the following:

4 "A Concurrent Resolution urging the United States
5 Department of Agriculture to fully investigate the
6 impact of implementation of a country of origin
7 labeling initiative upon this nation's system of
8 producing and marketing agricultural commodities."

9 2. By striking page 1, line 17 through page 2,
10 line 10, and inserting the following:

11 "WHEREAS, the initiative requiring the
12 implementation of a system of country of origin
13 labeling is supported by many persons but has raised
14 concerns and questions by other persons, including the
15 Iowa cattlemen's association and the national
16 cattlemen's association, which remain supportive of
17 some method of country of origin labeling; and

18 WHEREAS, some of these concerns and questions
19 relate to the costs involved in identifying, tracking,
20 auditing, and verifying information necessary to
21 implement the country of origin labeling initiative;
22 NOW THEREFORE,

23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, THE HOUSE OF
24 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the United States
25 Department of Agriculture is urged to fully
26 investigate the implementation of the country of
27 origin labeling initiative prior to adopting
28 regulations necessary to carry out those provisions of
29 the 2002 Farm Bill, which to every extent feasible
30 should include comprehensive public hearings to
31 address the initiative's impacts upon this nation's
32 system of producing and marketing agricultural
33 commodities; and".

By JOHN P. KIBBIE

S-3136 FILED APRIL 2, 2003