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FILED FEB 18 '03

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5
2 BY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
3 (SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1065)
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

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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

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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
5 2002, the United States Senate approved amendments
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
11 considered the federal farm bill eliminated the
12 protections offered by these amendments, consolidated
13 companies in the meat packing industry are now in a
14 position to use their captive supplies of livestock to
15 limit access to markets, to manipulate prices paid to
16 independent farmers and ranchers and charged to
17 consumers, and to devastate this nation's traditional
18 system of open and free markets; NOW THEREFORE,

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

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
30 resolution be sent by the Secretary of the Senate to

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1 the Honorable Senator Charles E. Grassley and the
2 Honorable Senator Tom Harkin, together with Iowa's
3 congressional delegation in the House of
4 Representatives; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
6 resolution be sent to the President of the Senate of
7 the United States; the Speaker of the House of
8 Representatives of the United States; the Chair of the
9 United States Senate Committee on Agriculture,
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
14 resolution be sent to the President of the United
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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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 5

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1 Amend Senate Concurrent Resolution 5 as follows:

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2 1. Page 1, line 7, by striking the word

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3 "including".

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By JULIE HOSCH

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S-3020 FILED FEBRUARY 26, 2003

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ADOPTED

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* = Language Stricken by the Senate

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