

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 120

BY SENATORS MILKOVICH, ALARIO, ALLAIN, CARTER, COLOMB, CORTEZ, DONAHUE, ERDEY, GATTI, HEWITT, JOHNS, LAMBERT, LONG, LUNEAU, MARTINY, MIZELL, MORRELL, MORRISH, PEACOCK, PERRY, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE

A RESOLUTION

To memorialize the Congress of the United States to take such actions as are necessary to support the domestic beef industry.

WHEREAS, the value of the domestic beef industry is a vital and integral part of the United States economy; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 economic impact was approximately sixty-seven billion dollars in farm cash receipts for cattle and calves; and

WHEREAS, there are over nine hundred thousand total cattle and calf operations in the United States of which ninety-one percent are family owned or individually operated, and eleven percent are operated by women; and

WHEREAS, domestic beef production in 2017 is estimated to be approximately twenty-five billion eight hundred million pounds; and

WHEREAS, the amount of beef consumed in the United States in 2016 was approximately twenty-five billion six hundred million pounds; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to the success of the domestic beef industry to increase international trade to key export markets; and

WHEREAS, the promotion of policies which highlight the quality, safety, sustainability, and nutritional value of domestic beef will drive growth in domestic beef exports; and

WHEREAS, it is in the nation's best interest to protect against legislative policies or agency regulations that have a negative impact on the economic health of the domestic beef industry; and

WHEREAS, minor changes in future domestic beef import or export levels can significantly change the net beef supply and beef prices; and

WHEREAS, important steps to supporting the domestic beef industry include developing a comprehensive national strategy for including beef in future dietary guidelines and investing in necessary research to improve productivity and efficiency; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to the success of the domestic beef industry to identify barriers and develop strategies to attract and enable the next generation of farmers into the domestic beef industry; and

WHEREAS, terrorist attacks have heightened the nation's awareness of agriterrorism and placed a renewed focus on ensuring the protection of the nation's critical infrastructures, including the domestic beef food supply; and

WHEREAS, an intentional contamination of the domestic beef food supply could harm millions of people and cripple our vast agriculture system; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to preserve the United States domestic beef supply and prevent reliance on foreign nations for food; and

WHEREAS, it will be necessary to develop a variety of federal actions to support the domestic beef industry including proposals which encourage domestic beef production, improve consumer demand, protect our nation's critical infrastructure, attract new farmers, improve the business climate, and increase trade to export markets.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to take such actions as are necessary to support the domestic beef industry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress of the United States is strongly encouraged to adopt import and export policies that will protect the economic survival and prosperity of the domestic beef industry in Louisiana and America and the nation's food supply.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate, the clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE