

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 413

Introduced by Davis, 43.

WHEREAS, the Nebraska cattle industry is vital to the economic and social well-being of the state; and

WHEREAS, foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is one of the most contagious diseases known to cloven-hooved animals including cattle, hogs, and sheep, and an outbreak of FMD could significantly harm Nebraska livestock producers and the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, the United States has not had an outbreak of FMD since 1929 when the disease was inadvertently introduced into California via contaminated animal products imported from Argentina; and

WHEREAS, the United States has successfully prevented any further reintroductions of FMD by strictly prohibiting the importation of livestock and fresh and chilled meat originating in countries where FMD has not been eradicated and where a risk of outbreaks persists; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is proposing a rule to allow the importation of fresh and chilled beef from fourteen states in Brazil, including states where widespread outbreaks of FMD occurred as recently as 2005 and 2006, where vaccination is attempted to control FMD, and which states are geographically adjacent to Paraguay which had an outbreak of FMD as recently as 2011; and

WHEREAS, the USDA admits there is an increased risk of introducing FMD into the United States under its proposed rule by acknowledging that

"as long as FMD is endemic in the overall region in South America, there is a risk of reintroduction from adjacent areas into the proposed exporting region"; and

WHEREAS, the USDA further admits that reintroduction of FMD into the United States would reduce financial returns to cattle producers and beef processors, the result of which would also harm rural communities and the entire Nebraska economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Legislature requests that the United States Department of Agriculture immediately withdraw its proposed rule entitled "Importation of Beef from a Region in Brazil" and not allow the importation of fresh and chilled beef from fourteen states in Brazil.

2. That the Legislature further requests the United States Department of Agriculture adopt a rule to strictly prohibit the importation of fresh and chilled beef from Brazil until the United States Secretary of Agriculture certifies to Congress that every region of Brazil is free of foot-and-mouth disease without vaccination.

3. That a copy of this resolution be sent to President Barack Obama, to United States Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, and to each member of the Nebraska congressional delegation.