

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5081

To amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to prohibit retailers from designating the United States as the country of origin of foreign beef, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 28, 2023

Ms. HAGEMAN (for herself, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, Mrs. BOEBERT, and Mr. BLUMENAUER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to prohibit retailers from designating the United States as the country of origin of foreign beef, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Country of Origin La-
5 beling Enforcement Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING FOR BEEF.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 281 of the Agricultural
8 Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1638) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through
2 (7) as paragraphs (2) through (8), respectively;

3 (2) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as so re-
4 designated) the following:

5 “(1) BEEF.—The term ‘beef’ means meat pro-
6 duced from cattle (including veal).”;

7 (3) in paragraph (2)(A)(i) (as so redesignated),
8 by striking “lamb and venison” and inserting “beef,
9 lamb, and venison”; and

10 (4) in paragraph (2)(A)(ii) (as so redesignated),
11 by striking “ground lamb and ground venison” and
12 inserting “ground beef, ground lamb, and ground
13 venison”.

14 (b) NOTICE OF COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.—Section
15 282(a) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7
16 U.S.C. 1638a(a)) is amended by adding at the end the
17 following:

18 “(5) DESIGNATION OF COUNTRY OF ORIGIN
19 FOR BEEF.—A retailer of a covered commodity that
20 is beef may designate the covered commodity as ex-
21 clusively having a United States country of origin
22 only if the covered commodity is derived from an
23 animal that was exclusively born, raised, slaugh-
24 tered, and packaged in the United States.”.

1 (c) ENFORCEMENT.—Section 283(b) of the Agricul-
2 tural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1638b(b)) is
3 amended by striking “\$1,000 for each violation” and in-
4 serting “\$1,000 for each violation (or in the case of a cov-
5 ered commodity that is beef, \$5,000 for each pound of
6 beef not in compliance with the requirements of section
7 282)”.

8 (d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—No ruling by the
9 World Trade Organization or by any other international
10 organization of which the United States is a member that
11 is established before, on, or after the date of enactment
12 of this Act may be construed to limit, alter, or affect the
13 authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to require coun-
14 try of origin labeling in accordance with the amendments
15 made by this section.

16 **SEC. 3. REPORT ON FALSE LABELING OF FOREIGN BEEF AS**
17 **ORIGINATING IN THE UNITED STATES.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the
19 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture
20 shall submit to Congress a report on the false labeling of
21 foreign beef as originating in the United States.

22 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report referred to in subsection
23 (a) shall include the following:

24 (1) An assessment of how much beef was sold
25 in the United States during the 10-year period be-

1 ginning on January 1, 2013, that was falsely labeled
2 as having a country of origin of the United States.

3 (2) With respect to the 10-year period begin-
4 ning on January 1, 2013, an assessment of—

5 (A) which packers falsely labeled beef as
6 originating in the United States; and

7 (B) in the case of beef so falsely labeled,
8 the correct country of origin.

9 (3) An assessment of the extent of economic
10 losses sustained by United States ranchers during
11 the 10-year period beginning on January 1, 2013,
12 because consumers unknowingly purchased beef with
13 a foreign country of origin under the assumption
14 that such beef originated in the United States.

15 (c) FALSE LABELING DEFINED.—In this section, the
16 terms “false labeling” and “falsely labeled” mean, with
17 respect to the labeling of beef, labeling such beef as exclu-
18 sively having a United States country of origin in a man-
19 ner that does not meet the criteria specified in paragraph
20 (5) of section 282(a) of the Agricultural Marketing Act
21 of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1638a(a)) (as added by section 2(b)
22 of this Act).

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