
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4000

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Morrell, Kretz, Pettigrew, Hinkle, Kristiansen, Grant, B. Sullivan, Buri, Ahern, Newhouse, Dickerson, Hudgins and Conway

Read first time 01/10/2007. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE
5 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE:

6 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
7 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
8 represent and petition as follows:

9 WHEREAS, A mandatory country-of-origin labeling program covering
10 beef, lamb, pork, fish, shellfish, perishable agricultural commodities,
11 and peanuts was passed by Congress and signed into law by the President
12 as part of the 2002 Farm Bill; and

13 WHEREAS, Congress and the President have, in 2004 and again in
14 2005, delayed implementation of the program for all covered commodities
15 except fish and shellfish, and have designated a new implementation
16 date of September 30, 2008; and

17 WHEREAS, Many United States producers support development of a
18 market-driven, country-of-origin labeling system that will help them
19 differentiate their products from imported commodities and thereby
20 promote their comparative advantages; and

1 WHEREAS, American consumers have a right to know information,
2 including the origins of their foods, that will enable them to make
3 educated food purchases and avoid buying products from countries with
4 substandard sanitation, inspection, or pesticide application practices;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, A country-of-origin labeling system adopted at the federal
7 level can be expected to prevent future court challenges over the
8 constitutionality of individual state labeling laws and regulations;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, The 2007 Farm Bill provides a renewed opportunity for
11 representatives of industry, consumers, and government to collaborate
12 on a mandatory country-of-origin labeling program that meets their
13 common goals;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that Congress
15 and the Executive Branch immediately begin work with agricultural
16 producers and consumer interest groups to reach agreement on a
17 mandatory country-of-origin labeling system covering beef, lamb, pork,
18 poultry, perishable agricultural commodities, and peanuts, to take
19 effect September 30, 2007.

20 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
21 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
22 States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture,
23 the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of
24 Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
25 Washington.

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