

STATE OF ALASKA THE LEGISLATURE

2004

Source
CSHJR 35(L&C)

**Legislative
Resolve No.**
54



Relating to bovine spongiform encephalopathy, commonly known as mad cow disease, and country-of-origin labeling for meat products.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the first cow in the United States infected with bovine spongiform encephalopathy, commonly known as mad cow disease, was identified in December 2003; and

WHEREAS bovine spongiform encephalopathy is a neurological disease in cattle caused by an aberrant protein called a prion, most commonly found in specified risk materials such as the skull, brain, trigeminal ganglia, eyes, vertebral column, spinal cord, and dorsal root ganglia; and

WHEREAS humans can develop variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease from eating contaminated beef products; and

WHEREAS cattle most commonly contract bovine spongiform encephalopathy from feed contaminated by infectious prions; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, the United States Food and Drug Administration prohibited the use of most mammalian protein in the manufacture of animal feed intended for cattle; and

WHEREAS the United States Department of Agriculture has taken steps to control bovine spongiform encephalopathy; and

WHEREAS, among those steps, the United States Department of Agriculture has banned all nonambulatory disabled cattle from the food chain, prohibited the use of specified risk materials in human food consumption, and prohibited slaughter practices that may cause the dislocation of brain material and its inclusion with other tissue; and

WHEREAS the cow infected with bovine spongiform encephalopathy was imported from outside the United States; and

WHEREAS country-of-origin labeling for meat products has been postponed for two years by the United States Congress; and

WHEREAS Americans deserve to know what is in their food and where it comes from; and

WHEREAS Americans deserve to have a safe food supply;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports efforts by the United States Department of Agriculture to control and eradicate bovine spongiform encephalopathy in United States cattle; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports any efforts by the Alaska congressional delegation to implement country-of-origin labeling for meat products sooner than the current implementation date.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ann Veneman, United States Secretary of Agriculture; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.