

(LIMITED RUN SHOWING ALL ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIPS)

CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 35(L&C)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 2/18/04

Referred: Resources

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES KERTTULA, McGuire, Morgan, Gara, Crawford, Cissna, Kapsner, Croft, Guttenberg, Wolf, Ogg, Berkowitz, Gruenberg, Meyer, Samuels, Lynn

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 **WHEREAS** Americans deserve to have a safe food supply;

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

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

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