

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 45th Legislature (1995)

HOUSE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION NO. 1048

By: Cotner of the House

and

Kerr of the Senate

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution memorializing Congress to direct the U.S. Department of Agriculture to reevaluate its position on the closing of the Cotton Classing Plant in Altus, Oklahoma; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, cotton production is a vital industry in the State of Oklahoma, particularly in the southwest portion of the State; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Cotton Classing Plant in Altus, Oklahoma serves a critical need to the region by providing timely access for producers; and

WHEREAS, the Altus plant is one of the most efficient cotton classing plants in the Southwest United States, assessing a per-bale price that is significantly less than the national average; and

WHEREAS, The USDA's cotton classing program is a user-fee-supported, voluntary service for cotton growers, receiving no appropriated funds; and

WHEREAS, the USDA has proposed closing the Altus plant as part of a reorganization proposal; and

WHEREAS, while the reorganizational process may decrease the total amount spent on classing plants, the savings will not be passed on to cotton producers; and

WHEREAS, the proposed closing of the Altus plant would result in increased costs to Oklahoma and Southwest cotton producers, and thus reduce their competitiveness both domestically and internationally.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 45TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature hereby memorializes the United States Congress to direct the U.S. Department of Agriculture to reevaluate its reorganization proposal for cotton classing plants, taking into consideration the financial impact of the cotton producers in Oklahoma and other southwestern states of the closing of the USDA Cotton Classing Plant in Altus, Oklahoma.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the members of Oklahoma's Congressional Delegation, and to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

45-1-6699

NLM