

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 46th Legislature (1997)

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 1013

By: Pope (Clay) of the House

and

Price of the Senate

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution memorializing Congress to request the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to take certain action regarding the Export Enhancement Program; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the Export Enhancement Program was announced by the United States Department of Agriculture in 1985 and is currently operated under authority of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978, the Uruguay Round Agreements Act and the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996; and

WHEREAS, the Export Enhancement Program helps products produced by U.S. farmers meet competition from subsidizing countries with the major objectives of the program being to expand U.S. agricultural exports and to challenge unfair trade practices; and

WHEREAS, the Export Enhancement Program helps U.S. agricultural producers, processors and exporters gain access to foreign markets by making possible sales of U.S. agricultural products that would otherwise not have been made due to subsidized prices offered by competitor countries; and

WHEREAS, several commodities including wheat are eligible for the Export Enhancement Program; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's budget contains \$100 million which is available for the Export Enhancement Program and \$500 million is proposed for this program in the 1998 budget; and

WHEREAS, Canada is backlogged on its export shipments and is negotiating to ship wheat out of U.S. ports and Argentina and Australia are backed up on shipments and are loading for export on a twenty-four-hour-a-day basis; and

WHEREAS, seventy percent (70%) of Oklahoma hard red winter wheat goes into export; and

WHEREAS, the Export Enhancement Program as it relates to wheat has been underutilized since 1995; however, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture has the discretion to increase the usage of the program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 46TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature hereby memorializes the United States Congress to request the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture to immediately utilize the Export Enhancement Program to its fullest extent as it relates to wheat in order to stimulate the market.

THAT copies of this resolution shall be sent to each member of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation, the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the Secretary of the United States Senate, and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

46-1-7044

ARE