

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 46th Legislature (1997)

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 1038

By: Pope (Clay)

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution memorializing Congress to request the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to take certain actions relating to crop insurance; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, agriculture is the number one industry in Oklahoma with the annual economic value of Oklahoma agricultural production totaling approximately 6.2 billion dollars; and

WHEREAS, the performance of the agricultural economy is important to maintaining the strength of the Oklahoma and the national economy and Oklahoma's presence in the world trade market; and

WHEREAS, weather conditions play a significant role in the growing of crops; and

WHEREAS, federal crop insurance protects farmers from unexpected production losses from natural causes and is available for at least 64 different crops; and

WHEREAS, many crops in Oklahoma including winter wheat were significantly damaged by the recent freeze of April 11 and 12, 1997; and

WHEREAS, the damage to crops by the 1997 freeze makes it the fifth year in a row in some areas of the state that crops have been detrimentally affected by weather conditions; and

WHEREAS, the preferable way to address this situation would be for the damage of the crops to be adjusted, claims settled with the acres released, and alternative crops be planted so economic losses can be recouped; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture has the discretion to take emergency actions to assist producers of crops damaged by natural causes as it relates to crop insurance.

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 take immediate action regarding crop insurance as it relates to the freeze-damaged crops in Oklahoma, with such action including the settling of claims and the releasing of the acres, and reopening the sales and extending the closing date on multi-peril crop insurance for spring planted crops so producers can recoup their losses by planting alternative crops.

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.

46-1-7508

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