STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 47th Legislature (1999)

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. ____ By: Pope (Clay)

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution memorializing Congress to take certain actions 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 counties 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, a significant portion of Oklahoma hard red winter wheat goes into export; and

WHEREAS, the domestic price for wheat has steadily declined over the last year, in a large part due to the inability of the wheat industry to sell its product overseas; and

WHEREAS, this inability to market United States wheat is largely due to destabilized foreign markets and unfair trading practices by our foreign competitors; and

WHEREAS, the Export Enhancement Program is one tool which can expand foreign market opportunities; 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 47TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature hereby memorializes the United States Congress to provide the necessary funding for the Export Enhancement Program and 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.

47-1-6551 ARE 6/12/15