

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 action against the European Union; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, in January 1989, the former European Community, now the European Union (EU), banned imports of beef and beef products from countries which allow the use of growth promotants, unless the product was certified raised without growth promotants; and

WHEREAS, the EU has ignored the overwhelming scientific evidence and rulings by international trade dispute panels that when used properly these products are safe; and

WHEREAS, this ban is a non-tariff trade barrier not based on science and therefore a violation of fair trade; and

WHEREAS, the United States retaliated on EU exports to the United States by imposing tariffs on millions of dollars worth of products annually; however, in 1996 the U.S. government dropped its retaliation against the EU for political and strategic reasons consistent with seeking a satisfactory resolution to the ban; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. filed a formal complaint with the World Trade Organization (WTO) against the EU for its ban and the WTO ruled that the EU's ban is a non-tariff trade barrier and does not comply with global trading rules; and

WHEREAS, the value of all U.S. beef exports in 1997 totaled \$3 billion and since the ban has been in effect U.S. cattle producers have lost hundreds of millions of dollars in potential exports; and

WHEREAS, the failure by the EU to lift the ban warrants strong action that should be taken by the U.S. in order to regain access to the European market; and

WHEREAS, the EU has recently lost similar disputes before the WTO concerning the importation of bananas resulting in retaliation against certain EU goods exported to the United States.

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 and the Administration to take strong action, including the enactment of or increase in tariffs or other necessary action, against European Union (EU) goods for their refusal to lift the ban on U.S. beef.

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature supports the action of the Administration in retaliation against the unfair trading practices of the EU concerning bananas and encourages the United States Congress and the Administration to remain diligent in their efforts to force our trading partners to adhere to the multi-lateral trade pacts they approved.

THAT copies of this resolution shall be sent to each member of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation, the President of the United States, 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.

47-1-6552            ARE            6/12/15