

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 47th Legislature (1999)

HOUSE CONCURRENT

RESOLUTION NO. _____

By: Pope (Clay)

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution memorializing Congress, the United States Department of Justice and the United States Department of Agriculture to take certain actions relating to large corporations; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the three largest meat packers control almost eighty percent of the cattle slaughter market; and

WHEREAS, four packers are slaughtering the majority of hogs in this country; and

WHEREAS, the four biggest flour millers have sixty-two percent of the market share; and

WHEREAS, the pending merger of Cargill and Continental Grain Company would result in a single entity controlling over forty percent of all United States corn exports, thirty-three percent of all soybean exports and at least twenty percent of all wheat exports; and

WHEREAS, there is a concern that concentration within the livestock and grain industries could lead to inadequate market access; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has the authority to enforce the provisions of the Packers and Stockyard Act; however, because of the increasing consolidation in this industry, the USDA has not been able to keep up with the enforcement of this Act; and

WHEREAS, the Packers and Stockyard Act is clear that packers cannot own livestock that is being finished; however, many packers

are contracting and formulating livestock prior to the livestock entering the slaughter facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Packers and Stockyard Act, The Sherman Act and the Clayton Act were enacted to address the issues of consolidation and price fixing; and

WHEREAS, plant and livestock breeding is now controlled by large corporations and this control has put family farm production capacity at the discretion of these large corporations; and

WHEREAS, concentration and consolidation in the livestock and grain industries drives out competition in smaller local markets and has far-reaching economic implications for consumers as well as agricultural producers.

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 memorializes the United States Congress and the United States Department of Justice to closely monitor any large corporation that controls the production, processing and marketing of agriculture's food and fiber.

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature strongly urges the United States Department of Agriculture to be more diligent in the enforcement of the anti-trust provisions of the Packers and Stockyard Act.

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, the Attorney General of the United States and the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture.

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