

ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 11

By: Price

A Resolution expressing the sense of the Oklahoma State Senate regarding floriculture; memorializing the federal government to confirm and correct the situation; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, according to the American Nursery and Landscape Association, theirs is an industry of small family businesses. This industry is composed of thousands of small family businesses that grow, retail, install, and care for plants and landscapes. As community-based small businesses, owners and operators are deeply involved in their communities as employers, taxpayers, and leaders. While the number of farms in the United States has declined over the last two decades, the number of nursery and greenhouse operations has increased. Grower cash receipts from nursery and greenhouse sales have grown steadily over the last two decades and are increasing at approximately \$500 million per year; and

WHEREAS, the United States is the world's largest producer and market for nursery and greenhouse crops and these crops represent an important and unique segment of agriculture whose impact is felt on the national, state, and community level. In terms of economic output, nursery and greenhouse crops represent the second-most-important sector in our nation's agriculture, ranking seventh among all commodities in cash receipts and among the highest in net farm income. Nursery and greenhouse crops are among the top five commodities in 27 states and rank in the top ten commodities in 42 states. Ten states account for more than two-thirds of all such crops, one of them being Oklahoma, which produces 2 to 4 percent of all nursery and greenhouse products in this country; and

WHEREAS, according to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, in 2001, Canada exported over \$26 billion worth of agri-food products, of which \$2.9 billion were horticultural products, ranking third behind livestock and grain. The ornamental horticulture industry in Canada experienced the largest percentage increase, expanding the area under production by 52 percent. Between 2000 and 2001, floriculture and nursery product exports rose 12 percent faster than imports, which only increased by 7 percent. To quote from an Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada report on the Greenhouse Industry, "the long-term prospect looks promising when one considers their market potential in North America."; and

WHEREAS, according to the International Society for Horticultural Science, "All U.S. greenhouse growers are faced with uncontrolled and aggressive competition from imported vegetables and imported flowers throughout the year. There are very few import

barriers and the U.S. interstate highway and air transport systems are very efficient.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 49TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT it is the sense of the Oklahoma State Senate that Canadian growers of floriculture crops enjoy an unfair competitive edge over the greenhouse industry in the United States, allowing Canadian growers to enter our markets at costs that are less than our costs to produce.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate memorializes Congress and the executive branch of the federal government to take all appropriate actions to confirm and correct this situation.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation and the Office of the United States Trade Representative.

Adopted by the Senate the 28th day of May, 2003.

Presiding Officer of the Senate