

1 State of Arkansas
2 84th General Assembly
3 Second Extraordinary Session, 2003
4

Call Item ##

SR 9

5 By: Senator Whitaker
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8 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

9 RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BEEF INDUSTRY
10 TO ARKANSAS' ECONOMY; URGING CONTINUING SUPPORT
11 FOR THE BEEF INDUSTRY; RECOGNIZING THAT THE
12 UNITED STATES PROVIDES THE SAFEST FOOD IN THE
13 WORLD; AND URGING THE ARKANSAS CONGRESSIONAL
14 DELEGATION AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
15 AGRICULTURE TO WORK FOR THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE
16 REOPENING OF INTERNATIONAL MARKETS FOR ARKANSAS
17 BEEF.

18 **Subtitle**

19 RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE AND SAFETY OF
20 ARKANSAS BEEF; AND URGING THE EARLIEST
21 POSSIBLE REOPENING OF INTERNATIONAL BEEF
22 MARKETS.
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26 WHEREAS, the beef industry constitutes a significant component of
27 Arkansas agriculture and this state's food production industry; and
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29 WHEREAS, beef makes a significant contribution to school nutrition for
30 Arkansas' children; and
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32 WHEREAS, a single case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy or mad cow
33 disease has caused an overreaction in both the domestic and international
34 markets; and
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36 WHEREAS, the National Food Safety Program now in place has worked



1 effectively and efficiently to identify the problem and to initiate
2 corrective and preventive measures; and

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4 WHEREAS, the United States continues to provide the safest food market
5 in the world; and

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7 WHEREAS, international markets are crucial to the continuing success of
8 agriculture in this nation and in Arkansas; and

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10 WHEREAS, the closing of international markets to United States' beef
11 has caused an unnecessary disruption in this state's beef marketing programs,

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13 NOW THEREFORE,

14 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-FOURTH GENERAL
15 ASSEMBLY:

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17 THAT the General Assembly urges the Arkansas congressional delegation
18 to make every immediate effort to assist the United States Department of
19 Agriculture in reopening international markets to Arkansas' beef products.

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Department of Agriculture
22 seeks to reassure international markets concerning the safety of United
23 States' and Arkansas' beef and seeks the earliest opportunity to reopen
24 international markets to United States' and Arkansas' beef.

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to the members
27 of the Arkansas congressional delegation and to the Secretary of the United
28 States Department of Agriculture.