

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 25

BY SENATOR CROWE AND REPRESENTATIVES ANDERS, BOBBY BADON, BURFORD, HENRY BURNS, CHANEY, GISCLAIR, GUILLORY, GUINN, HAZEL, HOWARD, JOHNSON, LEBAS, LITTLE, MILLS, PERRY, RITCHIE, ROY, ST. GERMAIN AND THIBAUT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the Congress of the United States to minimize price volatility risks now being experienced by dairy farmers across the United States.

WHEREAS, the current absence of profitable prices in the dairy industry for farmers, coupled with an outdated regulatory apparatus, is causing an economic crisis in the dairy industry; and

WHEREAS, dairy farm prices are at their lowest level in more than thirty years, while producers' operating costs have steadily risen, exacerbated by the rise in energy prices and feed costs; and

WHEREAS, milk and dairy products are considered to be essential food and beverage items and basic nutritional building blocks; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for an immediate examination of existing federal programs and policies impacting the dairy industry in order to develop approaches that better help to stabilize farm incomes, and hence benefit farmers as well as local communities and local infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, there is a renewed recognition by dairy farm and dairy industry leaders from all sections of the United States that the current pricing crisis is not of benefit to farmers or their customers, including cooperatives, processors, retailers, and consumers; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature recognizes the importance of an economically viable dairy industry, and its benefit to local economies as well as the national economy.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to work with the leadership of the United States dairy industry, including the leadership of its two major trade organizations, the National Milk Producers Federation and the International Dairy Foods Association, to take steps to bring all industry leaders together immediately to identify measures, including change to federal polices and programs, to minimize price volatility risks now being experienced by dairy farmers across the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congressional leadership be urged to work cooperatively with the United States Secretary of Agriculture and his staff on these issues insomuch as federal policies and procedures have an impact on domestic and international dairy prices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES