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ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8010

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State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

**By** Senate Committee on Agriculture & Rural Economic Development  
(originally sponsored by Senators Rasmussen, Schoesler, Sheldon,  
Franklin, Roach, Spanel, Deccio, McAuliffe, Shin, Haugen, Prentice,  
Fairley, Rockefeller, Mulliken and Morton)

READ FIRST TIME 02/10/05.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF  
5 AGRICULTURE, MIKE JOHANNIS:

6 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
7 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully  
8 represent and petition as follows:

9 WHEREAS, On January 4, 2005, the United States Department of  
10 Agriculture proposed a rule to reopen on March 7, 2005, the United  
11 States border to the importation of Canadian live cattle and processed  
12 beef products; and

13 WHEREAS, On January 11, 2005, Canada announced that yet another cow  
14 in Alberta tested positive for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE);  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture has dispatched  
17 a technical team to Canada to investigate the circumstances that  
18 resulted in this additional infection including effective enforcement  
19 by Canada of the 1997 ruminant-to-ruminant feed ban; and

1           WHEREAS, The only incident in the United States where a cow tested  
2 positive with BSE was on December 23, 2003, and that animal originated  
3 in Canada and unfortunately was shipped into Washington State; and

4           WHEREAS, The severe ramifications caused by this single animal was  
5 the closure by many foreign markets to beef produced within the United  
6 States; and

7           WHEREAS, Although progress has been made in reestablishing trust  
8 with our Asian trading partners, many of these bans to the import of  
9 beef from the United States continue in effect thirteen months after  
10 this single incident; and

11           WHEREAS, Even though the United States has commenced a major BSE  
12 testing program and no cattle indigenous to the United States have been  
13 detected to have BSE, once these foreign markets are closed, they have  
14 remained closed for prolonged periods of time; and

15           WHEREAS, Consumers in the United States continue to have confidence  
16 in beef produced in the United States and maintaining the safety of  
17 food supplies is the paramount concern to state and federal  
18 governmental officials; and

19           WHEREAS, Reestablishing trust with our trading partners and  
20 reopening export markets is of paramount importance to the American  
21 beef industry; and

22           WHEREAS, On February 25, 2005, the United States Department of  
23 Agriculture announced the results of the "science-based" decision to  
24 adopt the rule to lift the ban on importation of Canadian beef, for  
25 which a temporary injunction was immediately issued against the United  
26 States Department of Agriculture decision by a federal district court  
27 on February 28, 2005, and for which the United States Senate approved  
28 on March 3, 2005, Senate Joint Resolution 4 to nullify the United  
29 States Department of Agriculture rule; and

30           WHEREAS, Acceptance by the international community of the United  
31 States Department of Agriculture "science-based" decision has not yet  
32 been established and therefore the United States Department of  
33 Agriculture rule would reopen the United States border to the  
34 importation of Canadian beef without also addressing the reopening of  
35 foreign markets to United States beef, even though the cause of the  
36 bans on United States beef exports was a cow infected with bovine  
37 spongiform encephalopathy that originated in Canada;

1           NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United  
2 States Department of Agriculture delay moving forward with its plans to  
3 reopen the border to Canadian cattle and beef products until there is  
4 broad international acceptance of the science used by the United States  
5 Department of Agriculture by foreign countries that have banned the  
6 importation of beef from the United States, as demonstrated by the  
7 simultaneous reopening of their markets to the importation of United  
8 States beef.

9           BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
10 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United  
11 States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture,  
12 Mike Johanns, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of  
13 the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the  
14 State of Washington.

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