



SENATE RESOLUTION 01-014

BY SENATOR(S) Musgrave, Arnold, Cairns, Chlouber, Dyer (Arapahoe), Epps, Evans, Gordon, Hanna, Hillman, Lamborn, Matsunaka, May, Owen, Phillips, Reeves, and Teck.

CONCERNING THE PREVENTION OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE AND BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY IN COLORADO.

WHEREAS, Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) is a highly contagious and economically devastating disease, infecting cattle and swine, as well as other cloven-hoofed animals; and

WHEREAS, There are at least seven known types and several subtypes of the FMD virus, which can survive in a contaminated environment for up to one month; and

WHEREAS, FMD is the disease that farmers dread most because there is no cure and, while an animal may recover after 2 or 3 weeks, the animal is permanently debilitated; and

WHEREAS, The economic impact is felt through severe losses in production as milk flow drops, conception rates lower, and abortions often occur in infected cows; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. is considered free of FMD since eradicating the last outbreak in 1929; and

WHEREAS, The agricultural industry around the world is also facing the threat of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), also known as Mad Cow Disease, a chronic progressive degenerative disease affecting the central nervous system of cattle; and

WHEREAS, BSE belongs to the family of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs) and first appeared in 1986 in Great Britain; and

WHEREAS, BSE is a fatal disease for which there is no known treatment, and currently there is no accurate test to detect and diagnose BSE in a live animal; and

WHEREAS, A human form of TSEs believed to be related to BSE, new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD) has been appearing since 1996 in people thought to have been exposed to contaminated products containing brain or spinal cord; and

WHEREAS, FMD is an airborne virus that can travel up to 30 miles and can be carried on clothing and shoes as well as the body; and

WHEREAS, BSE is a protein that can be contracted only through the ingestion of contaminated meat and byproducts; and

WHEREAS, The Colorado Department of Agriculture has taken a proactive measure by adopting the Colorado Foot-and-Mouth Prevention and Response Protocol that bans the importation of cloven-hoofed animals from known FMD countries and setting up quarantine options and epidemiology investigations in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services should FMD appear in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture has implemented check points in U.S. airports, requiring passengers unloading from certain international flights to walk across disinfectant mats in an effort to remove the FMD virus from shoes and has prohibited the importation of swine and ruminants, as well as their meat products; and

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture took proactive measures in 1989 to prevent the introduction of BSE by banning the importation of animals and ruminant meat and byproducts from countries known to have BSE; and

WHEREAS, In 1997, the United States Department of Agriculture took further action and banned the feeding of ruminant-derived animal protein to ruminants; and

WHEREAS, There are over 17,000 farms in Colorado that depend on livestock for their livelihood, and over 15,000 of those farms raise cattle; and

WHEREAS, The cattle industry brings in over \$3 billion to the State of Colorado in cash receipts as well as provides countless jobs on farms and in communities that depend on the farms for their local economy; and

WHEREAS, The economic impact would be devastating to both the individual farmers in Colorado and to the state as a whole if either FMD or BSE were to be introduced in the livestock population of Colorado; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-third General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

(1) That we, the members of the Senate of the Sixty-third Colorado General Assembly, applaud the efforts of the Colorado Department of Agriculture to prevent the introduction of Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Mad Cow Disease in the state of Colorado and the efforts of Colorado's agricultural associations to inform the public. We encourage the Colorado Department of Agriculture to expand its efforts to prevent the introduction of FMD and BSE in Colorado.

(2) We further applaud the efforts made and proactive measures taken by the United States Department of Agriculture to prevent the introduction of Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Mad Cow Disease in the U.S. and for its efforts to inform and educate the public about these diseases. We encourage the U.S.D.A. to expand its efforts to prevent the introduction of and research options for responding to FMD and BSE.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Senate Resolution be sent to the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Colorado's agricultural associations, and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Stan Matsunaka
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Karen Goldman
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE