

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 1

BY AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

1  
2 TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS  
3 ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE STATE  
4 OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

5 We, your Memorialists, the House of Representatives and the Senate of  
6 the State of Idaho assembled in the First Regular Session of the Sixty-fourth  
7 Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

8 WHEREAS, since the beginning of time, the ability of man to provide  
9 food, fiber and fuel for himself and others has determined his independence,  
10 freedom and security; and

11 WHEREAS, the strength of a nation is based upon its ability to suffi-  
12 ciently provide safe and reliable food, fiber and fuel for its people; and

13 WHEREAS, America's national security has been and is directly related  
14 to the safety and reliability of the source of food, fiber and fuel; and

15 WHEREAS, Idaho agriculture and related agricultural businesses repre-  
16 sent our state's largest industry, Idaho being the fourth largest agricul-  
17 tural state economy in the nation and the third largest in net farm income;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, federal, state and local laws and regulations require American  
20 farmers, ranchers and food processors to meet the highest standards in the  
21 world when it comes to environmental protection, worker safety, wage rates  
22 and food safety concerns; and

23 WHEREAS, American farmers, ranchers and food processors fund record au-  
24 dits and USDA product inspections to confirm their products meet the crite-  
25 ria for U.S. standards; and

26 WHEREAS, the importation of fruits and vegetables has increased dramat-  
27 ically in the past fifteen years, while the exportation of fruits and vegeta-  
28 bles has remained stagnant in this same time period; and

29 WHEREAS, imports are not held to the same strict standards as domestic  
30 products, and American producers face an unfair and unequal market; and

31 WHEREAS, the Country of Origin Labeling law was repealed in 2015 because  
32 of the World Trade Organization ruling derived from complaints from Canada  
33 and Mexico, and now U.S. citizens have no way of knowing where food products  
34 are coming from; and

35 WHEREAS, the actual number of producers in the United States is now less  
36 than one percent of the nation's population, and declining.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-  
38 sion of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives  
39 and the Senate concurring therein, that because of the importance of the  
40 standards to which American farmers, ranchers and food processors are held,  
41 primarily standards concerning food safety, we urge that foreign companies  
42 wishing to participate in markets that lie within the boundaries of the  
43 United States be held to the exact same standards.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any audits or inspections that may be re-  
2 quired to confirm that the necessary criteria are met to conform to these  
3 standards are paid in full by the foreign companies themselves, so there is  
4 no burden to U.S. taxpayers.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage the education of the general  
6 public regarding the importance of the role that agriculture plays in the de-  
7 velopment of a society, recognizing that such public education, especially  
8 at the middle school and secondary levels, is critical in the preservation  
9 and strengthening of the agricultural industry, the State of Idaho, and our  
10 nation as a whole.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge that American farmers, ranchers and  
12 food processors be enabled to compete freely and trade fairly in domestic and  
13 foreign markets on a strictly level playing field.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representa-  
15 tives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this  
16 Memorial to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Rep-  
17 resentatives of Congress, and to the congressional delegation representing  
18 the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.