

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 6

BY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 TO THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CON-
3 GRESS ASSEMBLED AND TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE
4 STATE 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 on its ability to suffi-
12 ciently provide safe and reliable food, fiber and fuel for its people; and

13 WHEREAS, the family farm unit is the foundation of agriculture and one
14 of the basic strengths of the United States; and

15 WHEREAS, a strong and viable agricultural industry is a very important
16 part of our national security and overall well-being; and

17 WHEREAS, federal, state and local laws and regulations require farmers,
18 ranchers and food processors in the United States to meet the highest stan-
19 dards in the world when it comes to environmental protection, worker safety,
20 wage rates and food safety concerns; and

21 WHEREAS, United States farmers, ranchers and food processors pay for
22 record audits on farm inspections and USDA product inspections to confirm
23 that necessary criteria are met to adhere to the laws and regulations that
24 apply; and

25 WHEREAS, the Food Safety Modernization Act requires that all food prod-
26 ucts, foreign and domestic, must adhere to the same food safety standards,
27 and yet only 2% of all imported food products are actually inspected.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-
29 sion of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives
30 and the Senate concurring therein, that we urge that United States farmers,
31 ranchers and food processors be enabled to compete freely and trade fairly in
32 foreign and domestic markets on a strictly level playing field.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that food safety standards in the United States
34 should be enforced fully on food from foreign countries wishing to partic-
35 ipate in markets that lie within the boundaries of the United States and
36 funded in a way that does not burden the United States taxpayer.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED when determining the economic value of interna-
38 tional trade agreements, we urge that the cost of environmental protection,
39 worker safety, wage rates and food safety standards be quantified and con-
40 sidered in such determinations.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage the education of the general
42 public regarding the importance of the role agriculture plays in the de-
43 velopment of a society, recognizing that such public education, primarily

1 at the middle and secondary school levels, is critical in the preservation
2 and strengthening of the family farm unit and the overall preservation and
3 strengthening of the agricultural industry itself.

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