

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1012

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Urging support for America's sheep industry.

WHEREAS, South Dakota's sheep industry plays an important role in the state's overall economy and in the support of South Dakota's rural communities and its agricultural economy; and

WHEREAS, South Dakota is among the top five lamb and wool producing states, contributing significantly to the national economy; and

WHEREAS, the American sheep industry is in a period of severe distress primarily because of the flooding of American markets with imported wool and low-priced imported woolen products, as well as other problems, ranging from predators to weather cycles; and

WHEREAS, data from the United States Department of Agriculture indicates less than eight million head of sheep in the United States at the present time, compared with more than fifty million during the 1950s; and

WHEREAS, lamb prices fell forty percent between 1997 and 1999. Currently, forty percent of the 1998 wool clip in the United States is unsold and more than fifty percent of the 1999 wool clip is unsold; and

WHEREAS, European countries have rigid quotas on United States lamb and wool that also cause hardship for American producers; and

WHEREAS, in July of 1999, while in South Dakota, President Clinton announced imposition of Section 201 trade restrictions on imported lamb. This trade relief must be maintained through the year 2002; and

WHEREAS, South Dakota Governor William Janklow assisted in providing twenty thousand dollars to the American Sheep Industry Association to assist them in their Section 201 case with the United States International Trade Commission, which resulted in the provision of one hundred million dollars in assistance to the American sheep industry over a three-year period; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with United States trade law, all available actions must be taken to ensure full trade relief for United States sheep producers; and

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Sheep Growers and the Western South Dakota Sheep Growers are united in their efforts to find economic solutions for their industry; and

WHEREAS, the wool market depression continues to impose serious hardship on South Dakota's

sheep producers:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-fifth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature urges further assistance and support for the American sheep industry to overcome the negative impacts of imported wool and wool products that have flooded markets and reduced the prices paid to American sheep producers. All appropriate short- and long-term revenue stabilization measures should be taken to assist the farms and ranches that produce our country's wool and to promote and preserve a sound sheep industry.

Adopted by the House of Representatives,
Concurred in by the Senate,

February 10, 2000
February 17, 2000

Roger Hunt
Speaker of the House

Karen Gerdes
Chief Clerk of the House

Carole Hillard
President of the Senate

Patricia Adam
Secretary of the Senate