

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1018

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Urging the United States Congress to fully implement tax, regulatory, risk management, and trade policy reform to allow the Freedom to Farm Act to perform as intended.

WHEREAS, the House Committee on Agriculture of the United States Congress intends to conduct hearings to review federal agriculture policy in 2000; and

WHEREAS, agriculture is the leading industry in South Dakota and our state is directly affected by federal agriculture policy; and

WHEREAS, the United States Senate has failed to address substantive federal crop insurance reform although the United States House of Representatives passed such legislation in 1999; and

WHEREAS, federal crop insurance reform should address multiple-year disasters which adversely affect crop production five-year averages, make crop insurance premiums more cost-effective, protect producers against declining prices and loss in farm revenue in addition to crop losses, and make available a higher combination of yield and price protection that would help extricate producers from government financial dependence; and

WHEREAS, five firms control eighty percent of the beef packing market, six firms conduct seventy-five percent of the pork processing, and the four largest grain buyers control nearly forty percent of grain elevators and storage, the United States Congress should address changes in antitrust law to address increased concentration of agriculture industries; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has not enacted meaningful and reasonable regulatory reform in areas such as wetlands, endangered species, land use regulations, and public land use, which has perpetuated unnecessary costs and burdensome regulations for producers; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has not enacted necessary tax reform allowing producers to keep more of what they earn by reforming and reducing our complex and burdensome tax system; and

WHEREAS, over ninety-six percent of the world's population lives outside of America, the United States Congress should expand agriculture trade opportunities abroad for producers; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress should repeal all agriculture embargoes and sanctions abroad as they destroy markets for United States producers and open markets for our foreign

competitors; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress should enact market-based solutions to depressed agriculture markets:

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 United States Congress is urged to implement tax, regulatory, risk management, and trade policy reform to allow the Freedom to Farm Act to perform as its framers intended.

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

February 22, 2000
February 24, 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