



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 20-1011

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Hooton and Will, Arndt, Baisley, Becker, Benavidez, Bird, Bockenfeld, Buck, Buentello, Buckner, Caraveo, Carver, Catlin, Champion, Coleman, Duran, Cutter, Esgar, Exum, Froelich, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Gray, Herod, Holtorf, Humphrey, Jaquez Lewis, Kennedy, Kipp, Kraft-Tharp, Landgraf, Larson, Liston, Lontine, McCluskie, McKean, McLachlan, Melton, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Neville, Pelton, Roberts, Singer, Snyder, Soper, Sullivan, Tipper, Titone, Valdez A., Valdez D., Van Winkle, Weissman, Williams D., Wilson, Woodrow, Young, Geitner;

also SENATOR(S) Coram and Donovan, Bridges, Cooke, Crowder, Danielson, Fenberg, Fields, Foote, Gardner, Ginal, Gonzales, Hansen, Hill, Hisey, Holbert, Lee, Lundeen, Marble, Moreno, Pettersen, Priola, Rankin, Rodriguez, Scott, Smallwood, Sonnenberg, Story, Tate, Todd, Williams A., Winter, Woodward, Zenzinger, Garcia.

CONCERNING SUPPORTING THE CALL FOR A FEDERAL INVESTIGATION INTO POSSIBLE MARKET MANIPULATION BY THE MEATPACKING INDUSTRY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

WHEREAS, Cattle production is the largest component of Colorado's agricultural sector; and

WHEREAS, The production and sale of feeder and live cattle by Colorado's individual producers contributes \$3.7 billion to the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, Individual producers in Colorado are dependent on the price that processors and packers are willing to pay for fed cattle; and

WHEREAS, Individual producers have not seen an equitable return for their cattle in comparison to packer profits since August 2019; and

WHEREAS, The United States beef processing market is highly concentrated, with the four largest beef processors controlling 80% of United States beef processing, leading to large profit margins; and

WHEREAS, The boxed-beef-cutout price of cuts obtained from one head of cattle has soared beyond \$1,200 and, at the same time, live cattle prices have precipitously diminished year after year in spite of beef demand; and

WHEREAS, The Colorado Attorney General recently joined with nine other states - North Dakota, Iowa, Idaho, Montana, Missouri, South Dakota, Nebraska, Arizona, and Wyoming - calling for an investigation by the United States Department of Justice and the Department of Agriculture into possible price-fixing and market-manipulation practices of the meatpacking industry; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-second General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:

That the Colorado General Assembly supports:

(1) The actions of the Colorado Attorney General's Office and joins in calling for the United States Department of Agriculture and Department of Justice to lead a thorough investigation of the price-setting dynamics of the meatpacking industry; and

(2) The beef industry's own review, consideration, and proposal of regulatory strategies to promote competition, address market manipulation, and protect consumers at the federal and state levels.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to each member of Colorado's congressional delegation; William Barr,

United States Attorney General; Sonny Perdue, United States Secretary of Agriculture; Phil Weiser, Colorado Attorney General; and Kate Greenberg, Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture.

KC Becker
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Leroy M. Garcia
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Robin Jones
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Cindi L. Markwell
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE