



A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA SUPPORTING MONTANA'S BEEF PRODUCERS.

WHEREAS, the beef industry is a vital and longstanding cornerstone of the state of Montana's agricultural economy, with over 2.5 million cattle raised across the state, contributing significantly to the state's gross domestic product, rural communities, and job market; and

WHEREAS, Montana's beef producers, including ranchers, farmers, and workers, are dedicated to raising cattle in an environmentally responsible manner, upholding high standards for animal welfare, land stewardship, and sustainability; and

WHEREAS, Montana's cattle ranchers have long been stewards of the land, preserving open space, promoting soil health, and maintaining ecosystems through responsible grazing practices; and

WHEREAS, Montana beef producers face numerous challenges, including fluctuating market prices, rising feed and input costs, trade barriers, and increased competition from foreign beef imports that undermine Montana ranchers' ability to thrive; and

WHEREAS, Montana's beef industry is an essential contributor to local economies, providing jobs in agriculture, transportation, food processing, and retail sectors, and playing an integral role in the survival of many small towns and rural communities throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, Montana's high-quality beef is a respected product in national and international markets, and supporting Montana's beef producers is critical to maintaining the state's reputation for producing some of the best beef in the world; and

WHEREAS, Montana's beef producers not only provide a source of nutritious food for consumers but also contribute to national food security and support a balanced and healthy diet with lean, high-protein beef; and

WHEREAS, the Montana Legislature recognizes the importance of ensuring that the state's beef producers remain competitive, sustainable, and supported through favorable policies, market access, and fair-trade agreements; and

WHEREAS, the state of Montana opposes proposals that threaten the cattle industry by promoting harmful regulations, restrictions, and tax policies aimed at limiting or eliminating livestock production, which could undermine the economic viability of Montana's beef industry, disrupt rural communities, and harm Montana's agricultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, the state of Montana opposes the promotion, production, and sale of lab-grown "meat" as a substitute for real, responsibly raised beef, recognizing that lab-grown meat is an untested and harmful alternative that threatens the livelihoods of ranchers, distorts the marketplace, and poses significant questions about food safety, environmental impact, and long-term health consequences.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the Montana Legislature strongly supports Montana's beef producers for their essential role in the state's economy, culture, and way of life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Montana Legislature calls on the state and federal governments to prioritize policies that ensure fair market conditions, provide support for Montana ranchers, reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens, and facilitate better trade relationships that open new markets for Montana beef.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Montana Legislature encourages the development and promotion of policies that support sustainable beef production, encourage the use of innovative agricultural practices, and enhance the resilience of Montana's beef producers in the face of market challenges, climate change, and global competition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Montana Legislature reaffirms its commitment to ensuring the continued success and viability of Montana's beef industry, recognizing its significance in supporting rural communities, preserving agricultural heritage, and maintaining Montana's position as a national leader in beef production.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Montana Legislature opposes any federal or state proposals that would impose excessive regulations, restrictions, or taxes on Montana's beef industry, which would jeopardize the livelihoods of ranchers and the economic well-being of rural communities across the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Montana Legislature strongly opposes the promotion, production, and sale of lab-grown "meat" as a substitute for natural beef, and supports policies that protect the integrity of Montana's beef industry and the safety of consumers by ensuring that only responsibly raised, high-quality beef enters the marketplace.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send a copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Montana, to the United States Secretary of Agriculture, to each member of the Montana Congressional Delegation, to the Montana Stockgrowers Association, to the Montana Farm Bureau Federation, to the Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund United Stockgrowers of America (R-CALF USA), to the United States Cattlemen's Association, to the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, and to the American Angus Association to further demonstrate the Legislature's strong support for Montana's beef producers and the Legislature's opposition to policies that threaten the industry.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,
HJ 34, originated in the House.

Chief Clerk of the House

Speaker of the House

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2025.

President of the Senate

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2025.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 34

INTRODUCED BY R. GREGG, S. FITZPATRICK, B. LER, B. MITCHELL

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