

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Imports of seafood from countries that use
2 substances in aquaculture such as chloramphenicol, nitrofurans,
3 and other veterinary drugs banned for such use in the United States
4 pose potential threats to United States consumers; and

5 WHEREAS, The State of Texas is concerned about the use of
6 certain antibiotics and other banned veterinary drugs in shrimp
7 imported from outside of the United States for consumption in the
8 State of Texas; chloramphenicol, a potent antibiotic, can cause
9 severe toxic effects in humans, including hypoplastic anemia, which
10 is usually irreversible and fatal; and

11 WHEREAS, Because of such human health impacts,
12 chloramphenicol, nitrofurans, and similar veterinary drugs are not
13 approved for use in food-producing animals in the United States;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Other countries, including Thailand, Vietnam, and
16 China, have been found to use these drugs in the aquaculture of
17 shrimp and other seafood; and

18 WHEREAS, The United States imports over 400,000 metric tons
19 of shrimp annually, and Thailand, Vietnam, and China are the
20 largest, second largest, and fifth largest exporters of shrimp to
21 the United States, respectively; and

22 WHEREAS, On detection of chloramphenicol in certain
23 shipments of seafood from China and other countries through the use
24 of testing protocols that can detect such substances to 0.3 parts

1 per billion, the European Union and Canada severely restricted
2 imports of shrimp and other food from these countries in 2002; and

3 WHEREAS, The federal Food and Drug Administration inspects
4 only two percent of all seafood imports into the United States and
5 uses a testing procedure that cannot detect the presence of
6 chloramphenicol below one part per billion; and

7 WHEREAS, United States-based companies involved in the
8 importing and processing of shrimp are opposed to the use of
9 chloramphenicol and are working with the domestic shrimp industry
10 and the FDA to develop effective protocols to detect banned
11 antibiotics and to exclude all tainted products from the United
12 States market; and

13 WHEREAS, Although the federal Food and Drug Administration
14 tests of imported food did not detect chloramphenicol in shrimp
15 imported from China and other countries in 2002, independent
16 testing performed by or for Alabama, Florida, Louisiana,
17 Mississippi, and Texas detected chloramphenicol in samples of
18 imported shrimp from those countries at levels harmful to human
19 health; and

20 WHEREAS, The denial of entry to the European Union and Canada
21 of contaminated shrimp and other products will likely redirect
22 those contaminated products to the United States; now, therefore,
23 be it

24 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
25 hereby express concern about the presence of chloramphenicol,
26 nitrofurans, and other banned veterinary drugs in imported shrimp,
27 the potential adverse impact on the safety of the food supply, and

1 the resultant risk to human health, and call for the FDA to continue
2 working with both importers and domestic stakeholders to develop
3 effective methods to detect and exclude seafood imports containing
4 chloramphenicol, nitrofurans, and other banned veterinary drugs;
5 and, be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
7 hereby call for immediate and focused actions by the United States
8 government to improve the enforcement of food import restrictions
9 on seafood imports containing chloramphenicol, nitrofurans, and
10 other banned veterinary drugs in order to ensure the safety of the
11 food supply and to protect consumers in the United States and, in
12 particular, in Texas.

Eiland
Solis
Deshotel
Seaman
Bonnen
Dawson

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 103 was adopted by the House on May 6, 2003, by a non-record vote; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.C.R. No. 103 on May 31, 2003, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 103 was adopted by the Senate, as amended, on May 28, 2003, by a viva-voce vote.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor