

By: Eiland

H.C.R. No. 103

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 exporter 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, Although the federal Food and Drug Administration  
8 tests of imported food did not detect chloramphenicol in shrimp  
9 imported from China and other countries in 2002, independent  
10 testing performed by or for Alabama, Florida, Louisiana,  
11 Mississippi, and Texas detected chloramphenicol in samples of  
12 imported shrimp from those countries at levels harmful to human  
13 health; and

14 WHEREAS, The denial of entry to the European Union and Canada  
15 of contaminated shrimp and other products will likely redirect  
16 those contaminated products to the United States; now, therefore,  
17 be it

18 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas  
19 hereby express concern about the presence of chloramphenicol,  
20 nitrofurans, and other banned veterinary drugs in imported shrimp,  
21 the potential adverse impact on the safety of the food supply, and  
22 the resultant risk to human health; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas  
24 hereby call for immediate and focused actions by the United States  
25 government to improve the enforcement of food import restrictions  
26 on seafood imports containing chloramphenicol, nitrofurans, and  
27 other banned veterinary drugs in order to ensure the safety of the

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1 food supply, and to protect consumers in the United States and, in  
2 particular, in Texas.