



1999 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 13

January 21, 1999 - Introduced by Representatives BRANDEMUEHL and OTT.
Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** memorializing Congress to investigate the crisis in the pork industry.

2 Whereas, the United States is currently suffering from a national hog market
3 crisis; and

4 Whereas, over the last year and a half, 3 major pork-packing facilities in the
5 upper Midwest have closed their doors, resulting in reduced slaughter activity of
6 United States hogs and decreased marketing opportunities for Wisconsin's hog
7 industry and for hog market options overall; and

8 Whereas, the current exchange rate between Canada and the United States is
9 proving to be detrimental to the American pork producer, thereby drawing more
10 Canadian hogs to United States slaughter floors; and

11 Whereas, serious questions have been raised in the meat-processing industry
12 concerning packing, processing and marketing capacities; and

13 Whereas, the state of Wisconsin's 3,300-member hog industry is currently in
14 a financial crisis, with hog prices falling to \$10 or less per hundredweight, compared
15 to \$42 to \$43 per hundredweight last year; and

1 Whereas, Wisconsin pork producers must remain a strong, viable segment of
2 Wisconsin’s agricultural economy; now, therefore, be it

3 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the
4 Wisconsin legislature request the Congress of the United States to take an in-depth
5 look at federal policies and practices that are contributing to the economic crisis that
6 continues to threaten Wisconsin’s pork industry; and, be it further

7 ***Resolved, That*** Congress is requested to address the serious questions raised
8 in the meat-processing industry concerning packing, processing and marketing
9 capacities; and, be it further

10 ***Resolved, That*** Congress is requested to also evaluate federal farming policies
11 and pending Environmental Protection Agency rules relating to animal waste
12 management, nonpoint source pollution and the regulation of animal-feeding
13 operations that may also contribute to the hog market crisis; and, be it further

14 ***Resolved, That*** the assembly chief clerk shall provide copies of this joint
15 resolution to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
16 Representatives of the United States and to each of the senators and representatives
17 from Wisconsin.

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(END)