

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 224

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Secretary of Agriculture should establish a temporary emergency minimum milk price that is equitable to all producers nationwide and that provides price relief to economically distressed milk producers.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 9, 1997

Mr. OBEY (for himself, Mr. MCDADE, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KIND, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. MASCARA, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. BARCIA, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. WALSH, and Mr. KLINK) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Secretary of Agriculture should establish a temporary emergency minimum milk price that is equitable to all producers nationwide and that provides price relief to economically distressed milk producers.

Whereas the basic formula price for milk established by the Secretary of Agriculture under Federal milk marketing orders fell to a 6-year low of \$10.70 in May 1997 following months of substantial price volatility and remained at similarly low levels throughout the summer of 1997;

Whereas the basic formula price for milk announced for each month since April 1997 has been below the cost of producing milk for milk producers in all regions of the United States, as calculated by the Department of Agriculture;

Whereas income losses to milk producers resulting from low milk prices have imposed economic hardship on milk producers in all regions of the United States;

Whereas lost income to milk producers may create economic losses to businesses and result in loss of jobs in rural communities;

Whereas milk producers, rural residents, and agribusinesses in rural areas have petitioned the Secretary of Agriculture to implement an emergency milk price floor to provide price relief to milk producers;

Whereas the Secretary of Agriculture has authority under the Agricultural Adjustment Act (7 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), re-enacted with amendments by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, to establish minimum prices paid to milk producers covered by Federal milk marketing orders; and

Whereas the Secretary of Agriculture has authority under section 143 of the Agricultural Market Transition Act (7 U.S.C. 7253) to use informal rulemaking to reform Federal milk marketing orders: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that the Secretary of Agriculture should im-
3 mediately use the authority of the Secretary under the Ag-
4 ricultural Adjustment Act (7 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), reen-
5 acted with amendments by the Agricultural Marketing

1 Agreement Act of 1937, to establish a temporary emer-
2 gency minimum milk price that—

3 (1) is equitable to all producers nationwide; and

4 (2) provides price relief to economically dis-

5 tressed milk producers.

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