

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 251

To amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to require that imported beef or lamb bear a label identifying the country of origin.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 19, 1999

Mr. BURNS (for himself, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. THOMAS, and Mr. ENZI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to require that imported beef or lamb bear a label identifying the country of origin.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. LABELING OF IMPORTED MEAT AND MEAT**
4 **FOOD PRODUCTS.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1 of the Federal Meat In-
6 spection Act (21 U.S.C. 601) is amended by adding at
7 the end the following:

8 “(w) BEEF.—The term ‘beef’ means meat pro-
9 duced from cattle (including veal).

1 “(x) LAMB.—The term ‘lamb’ means meat,
2 other than mutton, produced from sheep.

3 “(y) IMPORTED BEEF.—The term ‘imported
4 beef’ means any beef, including any fresh muscle
5 cuts, ground meat, trimmings, and beef in another
6 meat food product, that is not United States beef,
7 whether or not the beef is graded with a quality
8 grade issued by the Secretary.

9 “(z) IMPORTED LAMB.—The term ‘imported
10 lamb’ means any lamb, including any fresh muscle
11 cuts, ground meat, trimmings, and lamb in another
12 meat food product, that is not United States lamb,
13 whether or not the lamb is graded with a quality
14 grade issued by the Secretary.

15 “(aa) UNITED STATES BEEF.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘United
17 States beef’ means beef produced from cattle
18 slaughtered in the United States.

19 “(2) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘United
20 States beef’ does not include—

21 “(A) beef produced from cattle im-
22 ported into the United States in sealed
23 trucks for slaughter;

24 “(B) beef produced from imported
25 carcasses;

1 “(C) imported beef trimmings; or

2 “(D) imported boxed beef.

3 “(bb) UNITED STATES LAMB.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘United
5 States lamb’ means lamb, except mutton, pro-
6 duced from sheep slaughtered in the United
7 States.

8 “(2) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘United
9 States lamb’ does not include—

10 “(A) lamb produced from sheep im-
11 ported into the United States in sealed
12 trucks for slaughter;

13 “(B) lamb produced from an imported
14 carcass;

15 “(C) imported lamb trimmings; or

16 “(D) imported boxed lamb.”.

17 (b) LABELING.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1(n) of the Federal
19 Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601(n)) is amended
20 by adding at the end the following:

21 “(13)(A) If it is imported beef or imported
22 lamb offered for retail sale as fresh muscle cuts of
23 beef or lamb and is not accompanied by labeling that
24 identifies the country of origin.

1 “(B) If it is ground beef made from imported
 2 beef and is not accompanied by labeling that identi-
 3 fies it as blended with imported beef or other des-
 4 ignation that identifies the percentage content of im-
 5 ported beef contained in the product, as determined
 6 by the Secretary.”.

7 (2) VOLUNTARY LABELING OF DOMESTIC
 8 GROUND BEEF.—Section 7 of the Federal Meat In-
 9 spection Act (21 U.S.C. 607) is amended by adding
 10 at the end the following:

11 “(g) VOLUNTARY LABELING OF DOMESTIC GROUND
 12 BEEF.—The Secretary may authorize persons, firms, and
 13 corporations to affix to a container of ground beef that
 14 is made entirely from domestic beef a label that indicates
 15 that the ground beef is made entirely from domestic
 16 beef.”.

17 (3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 20(a)
 18 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C.
 19 620(a)) is amended by adding at the end the follow-
 20 ing: “All imported beef or imported lamb offered for
 21 retail sale as fresh muscle cuts of beef or lamb shall
 22 be plainly and conspicuously marked, labeled, or oth-
 23 erwise identified to indicate its country of origin.”.

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