

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 387

Expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the current policy on  
bids for agricultural food tenders in Iraq.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 2004

Mr. JOHN submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred  
to the Committee on International Relations

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the current  
policy on bids for agricultural food tenders in Iraq.

Whereas the United States exhibited a record  
\$541,800,000,000 current account trade deficit in 2003;

Whereas United States agricultural exports have exceeded  
United States agricultural imports since the late 1950's,  
generating a surplus in United States agricultural trade  
that has countered the persistent deficit in non-  
agricultural United States merchandise trade;

Whereas exports consistently represent 20–30 percent of the  
value of total farm income in the United States;

Whereas an average of \$550,000,000 worth of United States  
agriculture exports were shipped to Iraq in the 7 years  
leading up to the embargo of 1991;

Whereas United States commodities provided, on average, 25 percent of agricultural imports by Iraq prior to the embargo of 1991;

Whereas Iraq is expected to require as much as \$2,000,000,000 worth of imported agricultural products annually over the next several years;

Whereas Vietnam has recently supplied Iraq with 75,000 metric tons of rice, and food products from other non-coalition nations such as China, France, Pakistan, and the Russian Federation remain in the pipeline for importation by Iraq; and

Whereas the United States has spent tens of billions of dollars in Iraq, and committed hundreds of thousands of American soldiers since the conflict began in March of 2003: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that United  
 3 States agricultural products should be prioritized during  
 4 any consideration of food aid and commercial tenders to  
 5 Iraq, and that this sentiment should be included in any  
 6 upcoming Memorandum of Understanding or other policy  
 7 decision regarding agricultural food tenders among the  
 8 World Food Program, the Iraq Ministry of Trade, and/  
 9 or the Coalition Provisional Authority.

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