

By: Senator(s) Gollott, Hewes, Dawkins

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 578

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE CONCERN OF THE
2 LEGISLATURE OVER THE PRESENCE OF CHLORAMPHENICOL AND OTHER BANNED
3 VETERINARY DRUGS IN IMPORTED SHRIMP AND URGING THE FEDERAL
4 GOVERNMENT TO TAKE IMMEDIATE AND FOCUSED EFFORTS TO IMPROVE
5 ENFORCEMENT OF FOOD IMPORT RESTRICTIONS OF SEAFOOD IMPORTS IN
6 ORDER TO PROTECT UNITED STATES CONSUMERS AND ENSURE SAFETY OF THE
7 FOOD SUPPLY.

8 WHEREAS, chloramphenical, a potent antibiotic, can cause
9 severe toxic effects in humans, including hypo-aplastic anemia,
10 which is usually irreversible and fatal; and

11 WHEREAS, because of these human health impacts,
12 chloramphenical, 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 have been found to use these drugs
16 in the aquaculture of shrimp and other seafood, including
17 Thailand, Vietnam and China; and

18 WHEREAS, the nation imports over 400,000 metric tons of
19 shrimp annually, and Thailand and Vietnam are the top two
20 exporters of shrimp to the United States, and China is the fifth
21 largest exporter of shrimp to the United States; and

22 WHEREAS, upon detection of chloramphenical, using testing
23 protocols that can detect such substances to 0.3 parts per billion
24 in certain shipments of seafood from China and other nations, in
25 2002, the European Union and Canada severely restricted imports of
26 shrimp and other food from these nations; and

27 WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration
28 inspects only 2% of all seafood imports into the United States and



29 utilizes a testing procedure that cannot detect the presence of
30 chloramphenicol below one part per billion; and

31 WHEREAS, Food and Drug Administration import testing did not
32 detect chloramphenicol in shrimp imported from these nations in
33 2002, independent testing performed by or for the states of
34 Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas detected
35 chloramphenicol in samples of imported shrimp from China and other
36 countries at levels harmful to human health; and

37 WHEREAS, imports of seafood from nations that utilize
38 substances banned in the United States, such as chloramphenicol,
39 nitrofurans and other veterinary drugs, pose potential threats to
40 United States consumers; and

41 WHEREAS, denial of entry to contaminated shrimp and other
42 products to the European Union and Canada will likely redirect
43 imports to the United States of contaminated products turned away
44 from these countries:

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
46 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
47 we do hereby express our concern about the presence of
48 chloramphenicol, nitrofurans and other veterinary drugs in
49 imported shrimp and its potential impact on the safety of the food
50 supply and urge the immediate and focused actions by the federal
51 government to improve enforcement of food import restrictions of
52 seafood imports containing chloramphenicol, nitrofurans and other
53 banned veterinary drugs in order to protect United States
54 consumers and ensure safety of the food supply.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
56 transmitted to President George W. Bush, all members of the
57 Mississippi Congressional Delegation, Dr. Lester M. Crawford,
58 Deputy Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, and
59 Joseph A. Levitt, Director of the Center for Food Safety and
60 Applied Nutrition.

