LEGISLATION NO: _0254-21_  SPONSOR: Edmund Yazzie

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Resources and Development and Naabik’íyáti Committees; Supporting United States Senate Bill S. 2716 Titled “America Beef Labeling Act of 2021”

Date posted: November 24, 2021 at 1:37PM

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DATE: November 19, 2021

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTÍ COMMITTEES; SUPPORTING UNITED STATES SENATE BILL S. 2716 TITLED “AMERICA BEEF LABELING ACT OF 2021”

PURPOSE: This resolution, if approved, will provide Navajo Nation support for passage of Senate Bill S. 2716 titled “America Beef Labeling Act of 2021”.

This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committee. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each committee member to review the proposed resolution in detail.
PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL — Third Year, 2021

INTRODUCED BY

TRACKING NO. 0254-21

AN ACTION
RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT AND
NAABIK’IYÁTÍ COMMITTEES; SUPPORTING UNITED STATES SENATE
BILL S. 2716 TITLED “AMERICA BEEF LABELING ACT OF 2021”

WHEREAS:


B. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation with the responsibility and authority to promulgate policies of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §§ 102(A) and 164(A).

C. The Naabik’iyáti Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council with the authority and responsibility to hear and act on all resolutions that require final action by the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A)(9) and 700 (A).

D. The Resources and Development Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council with oversight authority over grazing, agriculture, livestock, etc. and the authority and responsibility to coordinate with the President of the Navajo Nation and appropriate Divisions or Programs to lobby the state, federal, and other agencies related to the Committee’s oversight. 2 N.N.C. §§ 500 (A), (C), and (B)(6)(a).

E. Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling (M-COOL) for beef enables United States cattle producers to compete in the retail grocery market by empowering consumers to
choose to purchase their superior born, raised, and harvested in the USA beef product, or to choose a foreign beef product imported from any one of the approximately 20 countries from which the U.S. imports beef and/or cattle.

F. When U.S. consumers choose to purchase an exclusively U.S. beef product, the demand for cattle exclusively born and raised in the United States increases.

G. Without M-COOL, multinational beef packers and other importers can manage the demand for cattle exclusively born and raised in the United States by offering consumers substitute beef products sourced from foreign sources without the consumer’s knowledge.

H. Such is the case in today’s beef market as the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimated in 2012 that 18% of the available beef in the U.S. market is sourced either as an imported beef product or from imported cattle converted to beef in a U.S. packing plant.

THHEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

A. The Navajo Nation Council supports United States Senate Bill S.2716 titled “The American Beef Labeling Act of 2021”, attached hereto as Exhibit A, and encourages all U.S. Senators and Representatives to cosponsor and quickly pass this measure so U.S. consumers can begin choosing from where they want their beef produced and so U.S. cattle producers can effectively compete in the domestic market with lower-cost and undifferentiated imported beef products that currently function as direct substitutes for beef exclusively sourced from cattle born and raised in the United States.

B. The Navajo Nation Council hereby authorizes the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council, President of the Navajo Nation, and their designees, to support United States Senate Bill S. S.2716 titled “The American Beef Labeling Act of 2021”.