

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 21—Committee on

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining

FILE NUMBER.....

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging the United States Environmental Protection Agency to reconsider certain proposed regulations for animal feeding operations.

WHEREAS, Congress enacted the Clean Water Act in 1972 to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the nation's waters by eliminating the discharge of pollutants into surface waters and achieving increased water quality; and

WHEREAS, A new Clean Water Action Plan was announced in 1997 to address nonpoint sources of water pollution and has resulted in the Unified National Strategy for Animal Feeding Operations developed jointly by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Department of Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, The United States Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Department of Agriculture have identified large animal feeding operations as significant nonpoint sources of water pollution and are proposing increased federal and state regulation of these activities; and

WHEREAS, The United States Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Department of Agriculture propose to fully regulate these activities and establish a permitting process for the larger, more concentrated animal feeding operations through a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System; and

WHEREAS, The proposed National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System includes a plan to reduce significantly the numbers of animals per feeding operation that will trigger the permitting and regulatory process; and

WHEREAS, The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture expressed concern to the United States Environmental Protection Agency about the expansion of the permitting scheme for animal feeding operations, identified effective programs in many states that protect water quality and urged both the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Department of Agriculture to give states the opportunity and flexibility to continue to implement voluntary measures by enacting statutes based upon sound science, economic feasibility and the specific needs of the state; and

WHEREAS, The agricultural industry is of critical concern to the State of Nevada, and Nevada agencies are capable of adequately regulating such facilities within this state's borders; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the Nevada Legislature hereby expresses its full support of the recommendation by the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture that the individual states should be given the authority and flexibility to enact state statutes to protect their natural resources from potential negative effects resulting from livestock production and to base

those statutes upon sound science, economic feasibility and the specific needs of the state; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Nevada Legislature strongly urges the United States Environmental Protection Agency to reconsider the proposed formula used to determine the regulatory threshold number of animals which in its current form will reduce the threshold number and significantly expand the applicability of the permitting process of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Nevada Legislature strongly urges the United States Environmental Protection Agency to seek out and give serious consideration to comments from representatives of the states, local governments, farm bureaus, agricultural industry and soil conservation services and any other affected group or person before revising regulations regarding animal feeding operations; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture and to each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage and approval.

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