

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21—COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND MINING

MARCH 17, 1999

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources,
Agriculture, and Mining

SUMMARY—Urges United States Environmental Protection Agency to reconsider certain proposed regulations for animal feeding operations. (BDR R-1649)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets ~~[omitted material]~~ is material to be omitted.

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

- 1 WHEREAS, Congress enacted the Clean Water Act in 1972 to restore and
- 2 maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the nation's
- 3 waters by eliminating the discharge of pollutants into surface waters and
- 4 achieving increased water quality; and
- 5 WHEREAS, A new Clean Water Action Plan was announced in 1997 to
- 6 address nonpoint sources of water pollution and has resulted in the Unified
- 7 National Strategy for Animal Feeding Operations developed jointly by the
- 8 United States Environmental Protection Agency and the United States
- 9 Department of Agriculture; and
- 10 WHEREAS, The United States Environmental Protection Agency and the
- 11 United States Department of Agriculture have identified large animal
- 12 feeding operations as significant nonpoint sources of water pollution and
- 13 are proposing increased federal and state regulation of these activities; and
- 14 WHEREAS, The United States Environmental Protection Agency and the
- 15 United States Department of Agriculture propose to fully regulate these
- 16 activities and establish a permitting process for the larger, more
- 17 concentrated animal feeding operations through a National Pollutant
- 18 Discharge Elimination System; and

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

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

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

17 RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA,
18 JOINTLY, That the Nevada Legislature hereby expresses its full support of
19 the recommendation by the National Association of State Departments of
20 Agriculture that the individual states should be given the authority and
21 flexibility to enact state statutes to protect their natural resources from
22 potential negative effects resulting from livestock production and to base
23 those statutes upon sound science, economic feasibility and the specific
24 needs of the state; and be it further

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

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

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

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

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