

**Second Regular Session  
Seventy-second General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**REVISED**

LLS NO. R20-1318.01 Jery Payne x2157

**HJR20-1011**

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**House Committees**

**Senate Committees**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 20-1011**

101      **CONCERNING SUPPORTING THE CALL FOR A FEDERAL INVESTIGATION**  
102                      **INTO POSSIBLE MARKET MANIPULATION BY THE MEATPACKING**  
103                      **INDUSTRY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.**

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1                      WHEREAS, Cattle production is the largest component of  
2      Colorado's agricultural sector; and

3                      WHEREAS, The production and sale of feeder and live cattle by  
4      Colorado's individual producers contributes \$3.7 billion to the state's  
5      economy; and

6                      WHEREAS, Individual producers in Colorado are dependent on  
7      the price that processors and packers are willing to pay for fed cattle; and

8                      WHEREAS, Individual producers have not seen an equitable

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

SENATE  
Final Reading  
June 13, 2020

HOUSE  
2nd Reading Unamended  
June 12, 2020

1 return for their cattle in comparison to packer profits since August 2019;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, The United States beef processing market is highly  
4 concentrated, with the four largest beef processors controlling 80% of  
5 United States beef processing, leading to large profit margins; and

6 WHEREAS, The boxed-beef-cutout price of cuts obtained from  
7 one head of cattle has soared beyond \$1,200 and, at the same time, live  
8 cattle prices have precipitously diminished year after year in spite of beef  
9 demand; and

10 WHEREAS, The Colorado Attorney General recently joined with  
11 nine other states - North Dakota, Iowa, Idaho, Montana, Missouri, South  
12 Dakota, Nebraska, Arizona, and Wyoming - calling for an investigation  
13 by the United States Department of Justice and the Department of  
14 Agriculture into possible price-fixing and market-manipulation practices  
15 of the meatpacking industry; now, therefore,

16 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the*  
17 *Seventy-second General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate*  
18 *concurring herein:*

19 That the Colorado General Assembly supports:

20 (1) The actions of the Colorado Attorney General's Office and  
21 joins in calling for the United States Department of Agriculture and  
22 Department of Justice to lead a thorough investigation of the price-setting  
23 dynamics of the meatpacking industry; and

24 (2) The beef industry's own review, consideration, and proposal  
25 of regulatory strategies to promote competition, address market  
26 manipulation, and protect consumers at the federal and state levels.

27 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent  
28 to each member of Colorado's congressional delegation; William Barr,  
29 United States Attorney General; Sonny Perdue, United States Secretary  
30 of Agriculture; Phil Weiser, Colorado Attorney General; and Kate  
31 Greenberg, Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture.