

By Senator Bullard

39-01103-13

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Senate Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States,  
urging Congress and the United States Food and Drug  
Administration to ban the use of pink slime in meat  
products or require labels on meat products containing  
pink slime.

WHEREAS, the meat industry is adding low-grade beef  
trimmings, known in the industry as "lean, finely textured beef"  
and now widely known as "pink slime," to most ground beef as an  
inexpensive filler, and

WHEREAS, the low-grade beef trimmings come from the parts  
of the cow most likely to harbor pathogens, which are often  
close to the hide and highly exposed to fecal matter, and

WHEREAS, low-grade beef trimmings were once only used in  
dog food and cooking oil, and

WHEREAS, low-grade beef trimmings are made by gathering  
waste trimmings, such as fatty beef byproducts and connective  
tissue, simmering them at low heat so the fat separates easily  
from the muscles, and spinning the trimmings using a centrifuge  
to complete the separation, and

WHEREAS, the beef trimmings mixture is then sent through  
pipes where it is sprayed with ammonia gas to kill bacteria, and

WHEREAS, the process is completed by packaging the filler  
into bricks, freezing the filler, and shipping it to grocery  
stores and meat packers, where it is added to most ground beef,  
and

WHEREAS, several United States food manufacturers,  
including ConAgra Foods, Inc., Sara Lee Corporation, and Kraft

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30 Foods, Inc., publicly stated in 2012 that they do not use "pink  
31 slime" in their meat products, and

32 WHEREAS, Costco Wholesale Corporation, Publix, Whole Foods  
33 Market, and H-E-B also announced in 2012 that they do not sell  
34 meat products containing the low-grade-ammonia-treated filler,  
35 and

36 WHEREAS, Safeway, SUPERVALU, Kroger, and Food Lion  
37 announced that they will no longer carry meat products  
38 containing "pink slime" due to customer concerns, and

39 WHEREAS, McDonalds, Taco Bell, and Burger King announced  
40 that their meat products will no longer contain "pink slime,"  
41 and

42 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture  
43 announced in March 2012 that, beginning in fall 2012, the United  
44 States National School Lunch Program will allow participating  
45 school districts to decide whether to purchase ground beef  
46 containing "pink slime," and

47 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture  
48 announced in April 2012 that it agreed to allow voluntary  
49 labeling of meat products containing low-grade beef trimmings,  
50 and

51 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture has  
52 never required, and currently does not require, the labeling of  
53 meat products containing low-grade beef trimmings or "pink  
54 slime," NOW, THEREFORE,

55

56 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

57

58 That the Congress of the United States, the United States

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59 Department of Agriculture, and the United States Food and Drug  
60 Administration are urged to ban the use of low-grade beef  
61 trimmings, also known as "pink slime," in meat products or  
62 require labels on meat products that clearly indicate that the  
63 product contains the ammonia-treated filler.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
65 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the  
66 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the  
67 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of  
68 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.