

By: Senators B. Johnson, Caldwell
By: Representatives D. Douglas, Jett

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING ESTABLISHMENT OF A STANDARD OF IDENTITY
FOR RICE USING THE COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF THE TERM
“RICE”.

Subtitle

SUPPORTING ESTABLISHMENT OF A STANDARD OF
IDENTITY FOR RICE USING THE COMMON
UNDERSTANDING OF THE TERM “RICE”.

WHEREAS, the consumers of the State of Arkansas and of the United States deserve to be protected from the negative effects of intentionally misleading labeling and marketing of food products; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Rice Federation defines rice as the whole or broken kernels obtained from the species *Oryza sativa* L., or wild rice defined by the four species of grasses from the genus *Zizania*; and

WHEREAS, consumers may be misled or confused by the labeling of food products using the word “rice” in their description and marketing in a way that inaccurately represents the nutritional composition of the food product; and

WHEREAS, meaningful food labeling should include information on actual content, chemical composition, nutritional content, or potential allergy concerns or potential toxicity concerns; and



WHEREAS, labeling of a food product that delivers no pertinent information about the actual content of the food or food package and is included solely to mislead is not a fair or meaningful way to enhance consumer choice; and

WHEREAS, consumers, food marketers, vendors, retailers, and producers have called for honesty and transparency in the labeling of food products made wholly of or containing rice and for the establishing of a definition for the term "rice" using the common understanding of the term "rice" as defined in this resolution; and

WHEREAS, food products labeled or marketed using the term "rice" should actually contain or be derived from rice grains or wild rice as defined in this resolution,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Economic Development expresses its concern that deceptive labeling and marketing of food is intended to confuse consumers in an effort to replace food products wholly comprised of or containing rice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Senate and the House of Representatives will work to pass appropriate state legislation to establish a standard of identity for rice using the common understanding of the term "rice" as defined in this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, a copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to each member of the Arkansas congressional delegation, the United States Secretary of Agriculture, and the Commissioner of the United States Food and Drug Administration, urging them to work to pass nationwide legislation to establish a standard of identity for rice using the common understanding of the term "rice" as defined in this resolution.