



AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

LEGISLATIVE ALERT

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ATR MAY RATE A VOTE AGAINST RE-OPENING THE U.S.-CANADIAN BORDER TO THE BEEF TRADE AS A VOTE AGAINST FREE TRADE

Americans for Tax Reform strongly opposes a H. J. Res. 23, a resolution to block the re-opening of the U.S.-Canadian border to the beef trade , and may rate a vote for the resolution as a vote against free trade.

In 2003, the U.S. Department of Agriculture closed the border to the cattle trade after a case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) or “mad cow” was found in Canada. After much study and careful consideration, the USDA earlier this year decided to re-open the border to cattle under 30 months of age.

The mechanism for transmission of BSE is well-known and can be managed. Sensible measures are able to minimize threats to human health. In fact, the case of BSE found in Canada was in a cow born before the current feed standards were in place.

Meanwhile, if the border remains closed, Canada will begin building its own meat packing capacity, creating its own market, which would compete with the U.S. industry, eliminating the ability of many U.S. plants to survive. U.S. meatpacking plants would no longer have access to the more than one million Canadian cattle that, until 2003, were imported annually into the United States.

ATR strongly opposes this ill-conceived and anti-free trade legislation.

ATR MAY RATE A VOTE FOR H.J. Res. 23 AS A VOTE AGAINST FREE TRADE