

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOHONO O'ODHAM LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
(Opposing the Certificate of Origin Labeling Requirements in the 2002 Farm Bill)**

**RESOLUTION NO. 03-526**

1 **WHEREAS, the 2002 farm bill adopted by the United States Congress requires that beef products**  
2 **sold at retail be labeled, commencing September 30, 2004, to identify its country of**  
3 **origin; and**

4 **WHEREAS, the required country of origin labeling extends to “any person that prepares, stores,**  
5 **handles, or distributes a covered commodity for retail sale”, requiring that person**  
6 **to “maintain a verifiable recordkeeping audit trail that will permit the Secretary [of**  
7 **Agriculture] to verify compliance with” the country of origin labeling requirements;**  
8 **and**

9 **WHEREAS, producers of beef products are covered by the required country of origin labeling and**  
10 **audit requirements; and**

11 **WHEREAS, producers of beef products within the Tohono O’odham Nation will be adversely**  
12 **impacted by the country of origin labeling and audit requirements because livestock**  
13 **producers within the Tohono O’odham Nation utilize open range and the records**  
14 **needed to substantiate country of origin will require verification of where each**  
15 **animal is born and raised; and**

16 **WHEREAS, the country of origin labeling and audit requirements make no distinction between**  
17 **livestock produced on open ranges and livestock produced in feed lots or other**  
18 **confined pastures; and**

19 **WHEREAS, the United States government does not control the introduction into the United States**  
20 **of stray livestock from Mexico, placing the burden instead upon producers in the**  
21 **United States, including those within the Tohono O’odham Nation, who are compelled**  
22 **to comply with the country of origin labeling and audit requirements; and**

23 **WHEREAS, the 2002 farm bill commands the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into partnerships**  
24 **with States to assist in the administration of the country of origin labeling and audit**  
25 **requirements, but the 2002 farm bill omits sovereign Indian nations from the same**  
26 **partnership status; and**

27 **WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture’s implementing regulations prohibit self-certification**  
28 **of country of origin verification thereby requiring independent verification by**

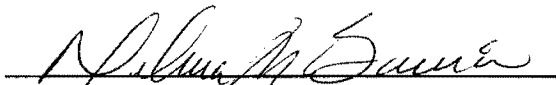
1 persons other than the owners or producers of the livestock; and  
2 WHEREAS, the cost to producers of complying with the country of origin labeling and audit  
3 requirements are not outweighed by any perceived benefit in product labeling.


4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 5 1. The Tohono O'odham Legislative Council opposes the country of origin labeling  
6 and audit requirements of the 2002 farm bill.
- 7 2. The Tohono O'odham Legislative Council supports postponement of the effective  
8 date of the regulations to implement the country of origin labeling and audit  
9 requirements of the 2002 farm bill so that necessary amendments to the 2002  
10 farm bill may be introduced in order to address the above-identified impacts to  
11 the livestock producers within the Tohono O'odham Nation.
- 12 3. The Chairwoman of the Nation is authorized and directed to take all reasonable  
13 and necessary steps to convey the Nation's opposition to the country of origin  
14 labeling and audit requirements of the 2002 farm bill, and to work towards  
15 favorable amendments to the federal legislation.

16 The foregoing Resolution was passed by the Tohono O'odham Legislative Council on the 06<sup>th</sup> Day  
17 of NOVEMBER, 2003 at a meeting at which a quorum was present with a vote of 2,138.55 FOR; -0-  
18 AGAINST; 275.75 NOT VOTING; and 215.4 [05] ABSENT, pursuant to the powers vested in the Council  
19 by Section 1 (c)(2) & (j) of Article VI of the Constitution of the Tohono O'Odham Nation, adopted by  
20 the Tohono O'Odham Nation on January 18, 1986; and approved by the Acting Deputy Assistant  
21 Secretary - Indian Affairs (Operations) on March 6, 1986, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June  
22 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).

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24 TOHONO O'ODHAM LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

25  
26 for   
27 Dennis Ramon, Legislative Chairman  
28 07<sup>th</sup> day of November 2003

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33 ATTEST:  
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35 Vivian Hedrington, Legislative Secretary  
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37 06<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2003.  
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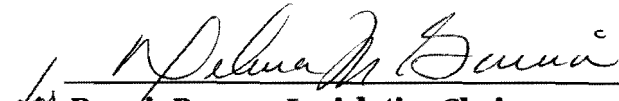
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1 Said Resolution was submitted for approval to the office of the Chairwoman of the Tohono  
2 O'Odham Nation on the 07<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2003 at 2:19 o'clock,  
3 P.M., pursuant to the provisions of Section 5 of Article VII of the Constitution and will become  
4 effective upon her approval or upon her failure to either approve or disapprove it within 48 hours  
5 of submittal.  
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7 **TOHONO O'ODHAM LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**


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11 for **Dennis Ramon, Legislative Chairman**  
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16  **APPROVED**

on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2003

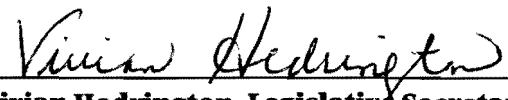
17  
18  **DISAPPROVED**

at 2:44 o'clock, P.M.

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22 **VIVIAN JUAN SAUNDERS, CHAIRWOMAN**  
23 **TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION**  
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28 Returned to the Legislative Secretary on the 07<sup>th</sup> day of

29 November, 2003, at 2:47 o'clock, P.M.

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34 **Vivian Hedrington, Legislative Secretary**  
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