



Elko County Board of Commissioners

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Commissioners

Delmo Andreozzi
Wilde Brough
Travis Gerber
Jon Karr
Rex Steninger

Elko County Manager

Amanda Osborne

Executive Assistant

Michele Petty

Administrative Assistant

Anna Hight

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-60

A RESOLUTION BY THE ELKO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES SHEEP INDUSTRY

WHEREAS, the United States sheep industry has been decimated by over-regulation at home and by excessive imports of lamb and wool from abroad; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. sheep industry played an important role in the settlement of the West, serving as the economic cornerstone for rural economies and supporting the social infrastructure of rural America; and

WHEREAS, sheep perform important environmental purposes by grazing off noxious weeds and other undesirable species in fire prone areas; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. sheep inventory reached its historical high in 1942 at 56.2 million animals, but has since decreased by 62%; and

WHEREAS, foreign imports of lamb and wool have increased 543% over that same time period and now account for 74% of the domestic market; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. has historically protected domestic sheep production from global market distortions through tariffs as it has for other domestic agricultural industries, such as peanut, sugar, dairy, cotton, tobacco and chocolate; and

WHEREAS, tariffs have been imposed since 1890 to protect the domestic sheep industry, but have not been adjusted since 1930, when they were increased to \$3 for live sheep, 7 cents per pound for lamb meat and 5 cents per pound for mutton. If those tariffs were adjusted for inflation, they would now be \$54 per head, \$1.25 per pound for lamb and 89 cents a pound for mutton; and

WHEREAS, the domestic sheep industry must deal with market distortions such as stringent restrictions on the predator control agent 1080 and persistently devalued exchange rates abroad; and

WHEREAS, without limits on current imports, the downward trajectory of the domestic sheep industry will continue to the point where it will soon become the first livestock industry in America to fall completely to import competition.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Elko County Commission calls on its Congressional Delegation to work with the Biden Administration to halt the ongoing injury to the American sheep industry by imposing updated tariffs and quotas to ensure the viability and competitiveness of the domestic industry.

PROPOSED by Commissioner Jon Karr.

SECONDED by Commissioner Wilde Brough.

PASSED and **ADOPTED** this 20th day of September, 2023.

VOTE:	AYES -	5
	NAYS -	0
	ABSENT -	0



REX STENINGER, CHAIR
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ELKO COUNTY, NEVADA

ATTEST:



KRISTINE JAKEMAN, ELKO COUNTY CLERK

