HJR 31   INTRODUCED BY WHALEN, ET AL.
         EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED FARM WORKER BOYCOTT
                OF CALIFORNIA GRAPES

         2/16   INTRODUCED
         2/16   REFERRED TO BUSINESS & LABOR
         2/17   REREFERRED TO STATE ADMINISTRATION
         2/20   HEARING
         2/20   TABLED IN COMMITTEE

1   _House_ JOINT RESOLUTION NO. _31_

2   INTRODUCED BY _Whalen Ream_ _Blaylock_

3   _Kadas_ _Ah_ _Russell Astoria_ _Driscol_ _Cahoon_

4   A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF

Keena

5   REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA EXPRESSING SUPPORT

6   FOR THE BOYCOTT OF CALIFORNIA GRAPES BY THE UNITED FARM

7   WORKERS OF AMERICA AND URGING ALL CITIZENS OF MONTANA TO

8   PARTICIPATE IN THE GRAPE BOYCOTT IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED

9   FARM WORKERS AND THEIR PRESIDENT, CESAR CHAVEZ.

10

11   WHEREAS, California grape growers are conducting an

12   advertising campaign to convince Montanans and other

13   consumers to buy table grapes as a natural food snack; and

14   WHEREAS, in 1984, California growers dumped 310,289,990

15   pounds of toxic pesticides on their fields and crops -- more

16   than half of the 600,000,000 pounds of regulated chemicals

17   sold in the United States that year; and

18   WHEREAS, a World Resources Institute report shows that

19   more than 300,000 farm workers are poisoned by pesticides in

20   the United States each year; and

21   WHEREAS, small California communities are becoming

22   afflicted with cancer caused by pesticides that growers

23   spray on their crops and by nitrates that leach into the

24   ground water supply after growers apply nitrogen fertilizers

1   to the soil; and

2   WHEREAS, the peril of pesticides reaches consumers

3   through poisonous residue left on the fruits and vegetables

4   they purchase at the market; and

5   WHEREAS, at least four pesticides used on grapes --

6   parathion, phosdrin, methyl bromide, and dinoseb -- pose a

7   particular danger to farm workers and consumers; and

8   WHEREAS, a fifth pesticide, captan, while not an

9   acutely toxic poison, is a threat to human life because it

10   causes cancer and birth defects; and

11   WHEREAS, California grape growers have exhibited a

12   callous attitude toward pesticide poisonings that are

13   occurring in the grape fields; and

14   WHEREAS, the California growers have strenuously

15   resisted a proposal to participate in a program to test

16   table grapes for pesticide residues; and

17   WHEREAS, since the 1960's the United Farm Workers of

18   America, AFL-CIO, have maintained a constant struggle for

19   the rights of thousands of farm workers who toil in the

20   California fields; and

21   WHEREAS, the United Farm Workers have embarked on a

22   nationwide effort to inform the American people about the

23   toxic chemicals used on grapes and about the pesticide

24   poisoning of California farm workers; and

25   WHEREAS, the United Farm Workers, under the leadership

Montana Legislative Council

-2-   INTRODUCED BILL

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1   of Cesar Chavez, have called for a boycott of California

2   grapes; and

3   WHEREAS, the purpose of the grape boycott is to protect

4   farm workers and consumers from toxic pesticides, as well as

5   to win a desperate fight for the rights of farm workers to

6   safe working conditions and a decent living; and

7   WHEREAS, Cesar Chavez has personally visited Montana to

8   seek support for the United Farm Workers boycott; and

9   WHEREAS, the people of Montana must stand with the

10 United Farm Workers in their resolve to improve the lives of

11 farm workers and to halt the senseless pesticide poisonings

12 taking place in California.

13

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE

15 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

16   That the Legislature of the State of Montana supports

17 the boycott of California grapes by the United Farm Workers

18 of America.

19   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature urges all

20 citizens of Montana to participate in the grape boycott in

21 support of Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers.

22   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State

23 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Honorable George

24 Deukmejian, Governor of California; the President of the

25 California State Senate; the Speaker of the California State

1   Assembly; and Mr. Cesar Chavez, President of the United Farm

2   Workers of America.

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