

State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-FIFTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2000

485D0628

HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE ENGROSSED NO. **HCR1005** - 2/2/00

Introduced by: Representatives Weber, Chicoine, Crisp, Engbrecht, Klaudt, Koehn, Kooistra, Lockner, Nachtigal, and Waltman and Senators Symens, Dennert, Drake, Duxbury, Kleven, Kloucek, and Lange

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Urging the Clinton Administration and Congress to forbid

2 packers from feeding and owning livestock.

3 WHEREAS, in 1919 the Federal Trade Commission declared the Big Five Packers were in

4 the position to monopolize all the nation's food supply; and

5 WHEREAS, in 1920 the Big Five controlled roughly two-thirds of cattle slaughter; and

6 WHEREAS, the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921 was enacted to strengthen existing

7 anti-trust laws and to prevent these or other companies from monopolizing the meat industry

8 again; and

9 WHEREAS, in 1983 the top four slaughterers had approximately thirty-six percent of the

10 market, in 1993 the top four slaughterers controlled approximately seventy percent and is now

11 over eighty percent; and

12 WHEREAS, three major corporations, Con Agra, Excel-Cargil, and IBP, control more than

13 eighty percent of the beef packing industry and together control major shares of the pork and

14 lamb slaughter industries:

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-

1 fifth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the Clinton
2 administration including Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman, Assistant Secretary Mike Dunn,
3 and GIPSA Administrator Jim Baker, and the U.S. Congress are urged to prohibit packers from
4 controlling, feeding, or owning livestock unless the packer is a cooperative where the producers
5 have sufficient interest in livestock or the livestock are purchased within fourteen days of
6 slaughter. Packers currently feeding livestock should have a reasonable length of time to divest
7 themselves of their livestock feeding enterprises.

1 **BILL HISTORY**

2 1/27/00 Scheduled for Committee hearing on this date.

3 2/1/00 Agriculture and Natural Resources Adopt Resolution as Amended, AYES 12, NAYS 0.

4 H.J. 339

5 2/1/00 Scheduled for Committee hearing on this date.