

# State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-EIGHTH SESSION  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2003

705I0610

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1007

Introduced by: Representatives Lintz, Fryslie, Garnos, Hanson, Hunhoff, Juhnke, Klaudt, Madsen, Pederson (Gordon), Peterson (Jim), Rhoden, and Teupel and Senators Koskan, Bogue, de Hueck, Duenwald, Duxbury, Ham, Kleven, Kloucek, Symens, and Vitter

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Urging the United States Department of Agriculture to  
2 implement country of origin labeling for beef.

3 WHEREAS, mandatory country of origin labeling for beef allows consumers to make a  
4 distinction between beef products derived from animals exclusively born, raised, and slaughtered  
5 in the United States and similar imported products. This differentiation will also enable  
6 consumers to exercise their option to choose between purchasing domestic or imported  
7 products; and

8 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture may promulgate rules that will  
9 place an undue burden on United States cattle producers and add unnecessary complexity to the  
10 logistical process of labeling beef products with their country of origin; and

11 WHEREAS, because no live animal processed in the United States may be disqualified from  
12 the United States label unless it has been imported from another country, the United States  
13 Department of Agriculture should design a system that requires all handlers of imported cattle  
14 to retain the animal's import documentation throughout the animal's life. Handlers of imported



1 cattle should further be required to disclose and transfer the animal's accompanying import  
2 documentation to each buyer; and

3 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture should define the lack of import  
4 documentation as proof of exclusive domestic origin; and

5 WHEREAS, under this proposal, no new record keeping system would be necessary to  
6 accurately identify cattle eligible for the United States label. In addition, the proposal would  
7 require only the retention of existing records kept on imported cattle in order to determine the  
8 proper origin of beef derived from imported cattle; and

9 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture should consider existing meat  
10 segregation models as recommended by Congress to maintain the proper label on all imported  
11 cattle and meat processed by United States meat packing plants and distributed to United States  
12 retailers; and

13 WHEREAS, requiring labeling on all meats and livestock that enter this country would  
14 eliminate the need for costly and unnecessary records by United States producers to individually  
15 identify domestically produced livestock; and

16 WHEREAS, too many unrealistic and unnecessary regulations could create more of a burden  
17 than a benefit for United States livestock producers. Such an action would be detrimental to  
18 South Dakota's agricultural industry and to United States consumers who want to purchase  
19 United States beef:

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-  
21 eighth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the South  
22 Dakota Legislature urge the United States Department of Agriculture to work to capture both  
23 the Congressional spirit and intent of mandatory country of origin labeling through the  
24 promulgation of rules that maximize benefits to both United States producers and consumers

1 while minimizing costs to producers, processors, and retailers.