

State of South Dakota

EIGHTY-FIRST SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2006

480M0706

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 6

Introduced by: Senators Kloucek, Hundstad, Koetzle, Moore, and Nesselhuf and
Representatives Gassman, Bradford, Gillespie, Halverson, Lange, Putnam,
Sigdestad, and Van Norman

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Urging the cessation of beef imports until they are shown
2 to be safe and free from bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

3 WHEREAS, Americans enjoy the safest and most abundant food supply in the world, which
4 reflects the tremendous productivity and efficiency of our agricultural economy and our farming
5 and ranching community; and

6 WHEREAS, it is of the utmost importance to the people of the United States to maintain the
7 safety and reliability of our food supply and to safeguard our food supply from contamination
8 from whatever source; and

9 WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of Agriculture, the United States
10 lost over \$2.6 billion in exports during 2003 and 2004 as a result of restrictions and bans on the
11 importation of U.S. beef because of the possibility of meat tainted with bovine spongiform
12 encephalopathy (BSE) from Canadian livestock; and

13 WHEREAS, a new case of BSE was just confirmed in Alberta, Canada, once again
14 threatening U.S. beef exports to all trading partners, especially Japan. Japan is the world's
15 second largest beef importer and intends to reinstate its ban on the importation of U.S. beef



1 because of fears of BSE; and

2 WHEREAS, the integrity of our food supply and economic health of our country is being
3 threatened once again. We cannot afford another recession in our industry caused by something
4 that is preventable while leaders of agriculture in our state are calling for the closure of our
5 border to Canadian beef imports; and

6 WHEREAS, the agricultural sector of the American economy is capable of providing a safe
7 and sufficient food supply to meet the needs of the American people and to avoid sources of
8 food-borne illnesses; and

9 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture has yet to confirm the exact
10 epidemiology of the strain of the BSE case discovered in the U.S.; and

11 WHEREAS, the United States Congress has acted to close the Canadian border in the past
12 to preserve the integrity of the U.S. food supply and beef industry, an action that was
13 implemented without severe economic impact:

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Eighty-first Legislature of
15 the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the South
16 Dakota Legislature supports a moratorium on all imports of live cattle, beef, precooked beef,
17 and all beef products until more science is developed or science can prove that the cattle and
18 beef are free of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) for the purpose of safeguarding the
19 American consumer and the United States live cattle industry.