



## 2020 South Dakota Legislature

# Senate Concurrent Resolution 601

SENATE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES ENGROSSED

Introduced by: **Senator Cammack**

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Supporting trade negotiations to remove barriers to**  
 2 **country of origin labelling.**

3 WHEREAS, in 2002, Congress amended the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to require  
 4 that retailers notify customers purchasing covered commodities, including beef and pork, of  
 5 the commodities' origin, by means of a "Country of Origin Label" (COOL); and

6 WHEREAS, the COOL requirements were not applicable to restaurants, cafeterias, or  
 7 processed foods; and

8 WHEREAS, the COOL requirements were designed to provide retailers with flexible labeling  
 9 options that included bands, placards, pin tags, signs, stickers, and twist ties, for conveying  
 10 the information in a legible form and in a conspicuous manner; and

11 WHEREAS, in May 2015, based on complaints from Canada and Mexico, the World Trade  
 12 Organization determined that COOL violated United States trade obligations and threatened  
 13 to impose retaliatory duties of \$1.1 billion, unless this country removed the requirement that  
 14 covered commodities, including beef and pork, be sold with a COOL; and

15 WHEREAS, in December 2015, Congress removed mandatory COOL requirements for  
 16 muscle cut beef and pork, and for ground beef and pork; and

17 WHEREAS, the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement ultimately did not include COOL;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Ninety-Fifth Legislature of the  
 19 State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the Legislature  
 20 urgently requests the President of the United States and the United States Trade  
 21 Representative to negotiate and execute agreements, with Canada and Mexico, which will  
 22 remove trade barriers to COOL; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this  
2 resolution to the President of the United States, the speaker and clerk of the United States  
3 House of Representatives, the president pro tempore and secretary of the United States  
4 Senate, and to the members of the South Dakota Congressional delegation.