

# State of South Dakota

## SEVENTY-FOURTH SESSION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1999

318C0394

### HOUSE ENGROSSED NO. **SCR4** - 3/4/99

Introduced by: Senators Kloucek, Benson, Dennert, Dunn (Rebecca), Duxbury, Flowers, Hutmacher, Kleven, Olson, Shoener, Symens, and Vitter and Representatives Weber, Apa, Brown (Jarvis), Chicoine, Crisp, Duenwald, Engbrecht, Fischer-Clemens, Fryslie, Haley, Hanson, Kazmerzak, Koehn, Kooistra, Koskan, Lintz, Lockner, Lucas, McIntyre, Munson (Donald), Nachtigal, Napoli, Patterson, Slaughter, Waltman, Wetz, and Wilson

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Requesting certain actions by the federal government to  
2 protect the agricultural economy of the United States

3 WHEREAS, ongoing depressed prices at the marketplace for agricultural products have  
4 created an economic emergency for rural America; and

5 WHEREAS, an investigation into the causes of the crisis in the agricultural economy,  
6 including a full investigation of market competitiveness in livestock and crops and a  
7 reexamination of trade agreements is warranted and necessary; and

8 WHEREAS, action is necessary at the federal state level to stabilize this nation's food  
9 producers, main street businesses, and rural America as a whole:

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Seventy-fourth Legislature  
11 of the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the South  
12 Dakota Legislature requests the following actions by the Congress and the executive agencies  
13 of the federal government:

14 (1) The commencement of vigorous antitrust investigations into the concentration of

- 1 ownership in meat packing, grain handling, and retail agricultural operations;
- 2 (2) A block of the proposed Cargill-Continental Grain merger;
- 3 (3) Country-of-origin labeling of meat and meat products and a limitation of the USDA
- 4 label to United States production;
- 5 (4) Mandatory price reporting for livestock and grain;
- 6 (5) Shift the responsibility for the regulation of packers and stockyards and enforcement
- 7 of the Packers and Stockyards Act from the United States Department of Agriculture
- 8 to the Justice Department;
- 9 (6) Inspections of imported agricultural products to ensure that such products have met
- 10 standards equivalent to United States standards for food safety and environmental and
- 11 worker protection; and
- 12 (7) Actions to ensure that farm and ranch producer interests are represented at the 1999
- 13 World Trade Organization negotiations.

1    **BILL HISTORY**

2    2/12/99 Scheduled for Committee hearing on this date.

3    2/12/99 State Affairs Adopt Resolution, AYES 7, NAYS 2. S.J. 474

4    2/16/99 Senate Adopt Resolution, AYES 32, NAYS 3. S.J. 495

5    2/17/99 First read in House and referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources. H.J. 570

6    2/23/99 Scheduled for Committee hearing on this date.

7    2/25/99 Agriculture and Natural Resources Deferred to another day.

8    2/25/99 Scheduled for Committee hearing on this date.

9    3/2/99 Scheduled for Committee hearing on this date.

10   3/2/99 Concurred in resolution as amended, AYES 7, NAYS 5. H.J. 840