

State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-FOURTH SESSION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1999

318C0394

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.

4

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, In support of country-of-origin labeling of meat products.

2 WHEREAS, consumers are entitled to know the origin of the meat they purchase and feed
3 their families; and

4 WHEREAS, livestock producers deserve fair and honest representation for the meat
5 products derived from the livestock they produce; and

6 WHEREAS, current law applying to meat labeling and meat inspections may confuse and
7 mislead consumers into believing that United States Department of Agriculture inspected and
8 stamped meat products are indeed domestic meat products, when in fact they are not; and

9 WHEREAS, livestock producers are proud of the quality livestock they produce and the
10 meat products derived from that livestock, and these producers intend to continually improve
11 their products and to educate the consuming public about the quality, safety, and nutritional
12 value of their meat products; and

13 WHEREAS, nationwide polling results indicate not only that American consumers want to
14 know the origin of the meat products they feed their families, but also would favor purchasing

1 United States meat products; and

2 WHEREAS, several other nations require retail meat labeling of United States pork and
3 other meat products; and

4 WHEREAS, pork producers are suffering under low hog prices of historic proportions, and
5 many producers are being forced to liquidate their herds and operations; and

6 WHEREAS, market access for many individual and independent pork producers has been
7 eliminated because of oversupply, stifled slaughter capacity, vertical integration, packer
8 concentration, and trade inequities; and

9 WHEREAS, the labeling of pork and other meat products to indicate country of origin is one
10 way to restore fair and free competition to the pork industry:

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Seventy-fourth Legislature
12 of the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the South
13 Dakota Legislature supports legislation requiring country-of-origin labeling of meat products at
14 the retail level because it will help producers meet the desires and address the concerns of the
15 consuming public and increase fair competition in the meats industry.