

State of South Dakota

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2019

918B0247

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. **1007**

Introduced by: Representatives Livermont, Brunner, Dennert, Frye-Mueller, Hammock, Jensen (Kevin), Marty, Mulally, Pischke, and Rasmussen and Senators Russell, Heinert, Jensen (Phil), Maher, and Nelson

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Expressing and encouraging support for the continued use
2 of country-of-origin labels on meat products sold to consumers.

3 WHEREAS, virtually all imported consumer goods, from pet treats to clothing to tools to
4 electronic equipment, are required to be labeled as to their country of origin as a condition of
5 entry into the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, South Dakotans appreciate origin markings, empowering consumers to
7 exercise choices in the marketplace, including choices based on which country's producers and
8 manufacturers consumers want to support with their purchasing dollars; and

9 WHEREAS, in 2008 the United States Congress passed a mandatory country-of-origin
10 labeling (COOL) for muscle cuts of meat sold at retail, that required meat produced in the
11 United States from imported livestock to bear a different label than meat produced from United
12 States born livestock; and

13 WHEREAS, in 2013 the United States Department of Agriculture issued new regulations
14 that provided additional information to the consumer on where meat was born, raised, and



1 harvested; and

2 WHEREAS, trade groups and the organizations representing multinational meat packers
3 worked predominantly with Canada, as well as Mexico, to bring a World Trade Organization
4 (WTO) case against the United States for the removal of the labeling requirements; and

5 WHEREAS, in May, 2015, the WTO issued a final ruling that the United States' country-of-
6 origin labeling regime was out of compliance with WTO regulations because it required the
7 segregation of imported animals; and

8 WHEREAS, Doctor Robert Taylor, of Auburn University, issued a study in February of
9 2015 demonstrating that Canadian and Mexican beef feeder and fat cattle markets were not
10 affected by country-of-origin labeling and that feeder cattle and fat cattle imported from both
11 Mexico and Canada were not affected by the country-of-origin labeling; and

12 WHEREAS, Canada and Mexico are the United States' first and second largest trading
13 partners respectively and that the growth of reciprocal trade should be encouraged as it is
14 beneficial to all three countries; and

15 WHEREAS, the United States mandatory COOL law jeopardize the viability of United
16 States packing and United States feeding infrastructure, placing local and state economies at
17 risk; and

18 WHEREAS, COOL undermines North American competitiveness in the global market; and

19 WHEREAS, the Canadian Ministers of Agriculture and International Trade, and their
20 Mexican counterparts, have stated their intention to apply retaliatory tariffs on Unites States
21 exports to Canada and Mexico, our two largest export markets; and

22 WHEREAS, consumers have repeatedly and overwhelmingly expressed their support for
23 country-of-origin labeling of food products in the United States:

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-

1 Fourth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the
2 Legislature will continue to support consumers' right to know where their food comes from and
3 support the use of country-of-origin labels and that the Legislature encourages the United States
4 Congress to develop and pass a legislative solution that will build markets for United States
5 products at home and overseas rather than implement additional regulations and requirements
6 for our meat producers and processors; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature requests that the United States
8 Congress, President Donald Trump, the United States Secretary of Agriculture, and the United
9 States Trade Representative notify the World Trade Organization that it must not intrude on the
10 sovereignty of the United States by attempting to undermine the United States country-of-origin
11 labeling law and its implementing regulations that were adopted pursuant to the United States
12 Constitution.