

House Concurrent Resolution No. 26

92ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2085L.011

1 **Whereas**, mandatory country of origin labeling for beef allows consumers to make
2 a distinction between beef products derived from animals exclusively born, raised, and
3 slaughtered in the United States and similar imported products. This differentiation will also
4 enable consumers to exercise their option to choose between purchasing domestic or imported
5 products; and
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7 **Whereas**, the United States Department of Agriculture may promulgate rules that
8 will place an undue burden on United States cattle producers and add unnecessary complexity
9 to the logistical process of labeling beef products with their country of origin; and
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11 **Whereas**, because no live animal processed in the United States may be
12 disqualified from the United States label unless it has been imported from another country, the
13 United States Department of Agriculture should design a system that requires all handlers of
14 imported cattle to retain the animal's import documentation throughout the animal's life.
15 Handlers of imported cattle should further be required to disclose and transfer the animal's
16 accompanying import documentation to each buyer; and
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18 **Whereas**, the United States Department of Agriculture should define the lack of
19 import documentation as proof of exclusive domestic origin; and
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21 **Whereas**, under this proposal, no new record keeping system would be necessary
22 to accurately identify cattle eligible for the United States label. In addition, the proposal would
23 require only the retention of existing records kept on imported cattle in order to determine the
24 proper origin of beef derived from imported cattle; and
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26 **Whereas**, the United States Department of Agriculture should consider existing
27 meat segregation models as recommended by Congress to maintain the proper label of all
28 imported cattle and meat processed by United States meat packing plants and distributed to
29 United States retailers; and
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31 **Whereas**, requiring labeling of all meats and livestock that enter this country would
32 eliminate the need for costly and unnecessary records by United States producers to individually
33 identify domestically produced livestock; and
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35 **Whereas**, too many unrealistic and unnecessary regulations could create more of
36 a burden than a benefit for United States livestock producers. Such an action would be
37 detrimental to Missouri's agricultural industry and to United States consumers who want to
38 purchase United States beef:
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40 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of
41 Representatives of the Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
42 concurring therein, urge the United States Department of Agriculture to work to capture both the
43 Congressional spirit and intent of mandatory country of origin labeling through the promulgation
44 of rules that maximize benefits to both United States producers and consumers; and
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46 **Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
47 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for United
48 States Department of Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman.