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4 **House Concurrent Resolution No. 5017**

5
6 By Committee on Agriculture

7
8 3-6

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10 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the United States Depart-
11 ment of Agriculture to implement country of origin labeling for beef.

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13 WHEREAS, Mandatory country of origin labeling for beef allows con-
14 sumers to make a distinction between beef products derived from animals
15 exclusively born, raised and slaughtered in the United States and similar
16 imported products. This differentiation will also enable consumers to ex-
17 ercise their option to choose between purchasing domestic or imported
18 products; and

19 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture may prom-
20 ulgate rules that will place an undue burden on United States cattle pro-
21 ducers and add unnecessary complexity to the logistical process of label-
22 ing beef products with their country of origin; and

23 WHEREAS, Because no live animal processed in the United States
24 may be disqualified from the United States label unless it has been im-
25 ported from another country, the United States Department of Agricul-
26 ture should design a system that requires all handlers of imported cattle
27 to retain the animal's import documentation throughout the animal's life.
28 Handlers of imported cattle should further be required to disclose and
29 transfer the animal's accompanying import documentation to each buyer;
30 and

31 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture should de-
32 fine the lack of import documentation as proof of exclusive domestic
33 origin; and

34 WHEREAS, Under this proposal, no new record keeping system
35 would be necessary to accurately identify cattle eligible for the United
36 States label. In addition, the proposal would require only the retention
37 of existing records kept on imported cattle in order to determine the
38 proper origin of beef derived from imported cattle; and

39 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture should
40 consider existing meat segregation models as recommended by the
41 United States Congress to maintain the proper label on all imported cattle
42 and meat processed by United States meat packing plants and distributed
43 to United States retailers; and

1 WHEREAS, Requiring labeling on all meats and livestock that enter
2 this country would eliminate the need for costly and unnecessary records
3 by United States producers to individually identify domestically produced
4 livestock; and

5 WHEREAS, Too many unrealistic and unnecessary regulations could
6 create more of a burden than a benefit for United States livestock pro-
7 ducers. Such an action would be detrimental to the Kansas agricultural
8 industry and to United States consumers who want to purchase United
9 States beef: Now, therefore,

10 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas,*
11 *the Senate concurring therein:* That we urge the United States Depart-
12 ment of Agriculture to work to capture both the Congressional spirit and
13 intent of mandatory country of origin labeling through the promulgation
14 of rules that maximize benefits to both United States producers and con-
15 sumers while minimizing costs to producers, processors and retailers; and

16 *Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of State be directed to send
17 an enrolled copy of this resolution to the secretary of the United States
18 Department of Agriculture, **the Agricultural Marketing Service of the**
19 **United States Department of Agriculture** and each member of the
20 Kansas Congressional Delegation.

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