

**Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 9, 2001**

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3035
(Representatives Fairfield, Boehm, Kerzman, Lemieux)
(Senators Bowman, Tomac)

A concurrent resolution urging Congress to support efforts to prohibit meatpackers from owning, feeding, or controlling livestock for more than 14 days before slaughter and to amend the federal Packers and Stockyards Act to accomplish this goal.

WHEREAS, the top four firms in steer and heifer slaughter control over 80 percent of the market;

WHEREAS, this market share evidences more than double the concentration of economic power these entities had just 15 years ago;

WHEREAS, when four packing firms have such a large share of the market, their individual procurement decisions and practices affect the prices paid to producers;

WHEREAS, research strongly suggests that significantly depressed market prices have accompanied increases in concentration in regional livestock markets; and

WHEREAS, competitive, fair, and open livestock markets are fundamental to the economic survival of family farms;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

That the Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to support efforts to prohibit meatpackers from owning, feeding, or controlling livestock for more than 14 days before slaughter and to amend the federal Packers and Stockyards Act to accomplish this goal; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the Secretary of Agriculture, the chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, and to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2001,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State