

**Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 4, 2005**

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4028

(Senators Krauter, Erbele)
(Representatives Kerzman, Nicholas)

A concurrent resolution urging Congress to support mandatory country of origin labeling for all agricultural commodities.

WHEREAS, on May 13, 2002, President Bush signed into law the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, which required country of origin labeling for beef, lamb, pork, fish, perishable agricultural commodities, and peanuts; and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2004, President Bush signed Public Law 108-199, which delays the implementation of mandatory country of origin labeling for all covered commodities except wild and farm-raised fish and shellfish, until September 30, 2006; and

WHEREAS, responsibility for implementation of the country of origin labeling program rests with the Agricultural Marketing Service of the United States Department of Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, since 1999 North Dakota has required retailers to indicate by label the country of origin of fresh beef, lamb, and pork; and

WHEREAS, Florida, Kansas, Maine, South Dakota, and Wyoming all require some form of mandatory country of origin labeling; and

WHEREAS, country of origin labeling can provide consumers with valuable information about the source of their food; and

WHEREAS, while processors and packers have been unwilling to participate in mandatory country of origin labeling, consumers have shown overwhelming support for country of origin labeling, as well as the willingness to pay extra for such information;

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

That the Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to make country of origin labeling mandatory for all agricultural commodities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, and each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2005,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State