

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4007

Introduced by

Senators Taylor, Erbele, Flakoll

Representatives DeKrey, Gulleson, Onstad

1 A concurrent resolution urging Congress to provide adequate funding for state meat and poultry
2 inspection programs and to enact legislation that allows federally approved state programs to
3 ship state-inspected products interstate.

4 **WHEREAS**, state meat and poultry inspection programs are being funded at a level less
5 than adequate for established and growing programs; and

6 **WHEREAS**, if the United States Department of Agriculture does not provide adequate
7 funding, states may be unable to maintain their "equal to" status with federal requirements and
8 the United States Department of Agriculture would then have to assume all responsibilities for
9 meat inspection, which would be at nearly twice the cost and cause many plants to drop
10 inspection; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Agriculture has verified through annual
12 reviews and oversight of state inspection programs over the past 35 years that state meat and
13 poultry inspection programs are equal to or exceed the level of food safety of the federal
14 inspection program; and

15 **WHEREAS**, federal plants have an unfair advantage over state-inspected plants
16 because they can ship products interstate; and

17 **WHEREAS**, current law penalizes small businesses by limiting marketing options; and

18 **WHEREAS**, current law discriminates against United States' products by allowing
19 foreign-inspected products, which have received less inspection oversight from the United
20 States Department of Agriculture than state programs, to be freely shipped and sold nationwide;
21 and

22 **WHEREAS**, the current law banning interstate shipment is a marketing issue, not a food
23 safety issue; and

24 **WHEREAS**, legislation is pending before Congress to lift the ban on interstate shipment
25 of state-inspected meat and poultry products; and

1 **WHEREAS**, legislation would improve food safety by creating a more uniform system
2 and increase consumer confidence;

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

5 That the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to
6 provide adequate funding for state meat and poultry inspection programs and to enact
7 legislation that allows federally approved state-inspected products to be shipped interstate; and

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