

**Sixtieth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota  
In Regular Session Commencing Wednesday, January 3, 2007**

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4007  
(Senators Taylor, Erbele, Flakoll)  
(Representatives DeKrey, Gulleson, Onstad)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

That the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to provide adequate funding for state meat and poultry inspection programs and to enact legislation that allows federally approved state-inspected products to be shipped interstate; 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, the Chairmen of the United States Senate and United States House of Representatives Agriculture Committees, and to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

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Secretary of the Senate

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Chief Clerk of the House

Filed in this office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2007,  
at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State