

Sixty-first
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

Introduced by

1 A concurrent resolution urging Congress to examine carefully the known and potential impacts
2 of implementing a national animal identification system.

3 **WHEREAS**, to protect the health of United States livestock and poultry and the
4 economic well-being of those industries, it is imperative that an animal disease be traced to its
5 source quickly and effectively; and

6 **WHEREAS**, when a disease outbreak occurs, animal health officials need to know
7 which animals are involved in the outbreak, where the infected animals are located, and what
8 other animals might have been exposed to the disease; and

9 **WHEREAS**, a rapid disease response means fewer affected producers, less economic
10 loss, greater preservation of marketability, and increases in markets at home and abroad; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the national animal identification system is a modern, streamlined
12 information system that helps producers and animal health officials respond quickly and
13 effectively to animal disease events in the United States; and

14 **WHEREAS**, concerns still exist regarding the effect that a national animal identification
15 system will have on small producers, whether it will impinge upon individual rights and privacy,
16 whether it will increase the cost of meat, whether it will truly make food safer, and whether it will
17 create a large government bureaucracy;

18 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE _____ OF**
19 **NORTH DAKOTA, THE _____ CONCURRING THEREIN:**

20 That the Sixty-first Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States and
21 the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture to examine carefully the known
22 and potential impacts that implementation of a national animal identification system will have on
23 producers of all sizes, on the livestock industry, and on consumers domestically and
24 internationally and to undertake further development of the system only after assurances exist

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1 that the concerns are either without foundation or significantly outweighed by the system's
2 benefits; and

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