

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 15

Whereas, American farmers and ranchers raise the best meat in the world; and

Whereas, Americans should have the right to knowingly buy made-in-America products; and

Whereas, American farmers, ranchers, workers, and consumers benefit from transparency on the origins of their food; and

Whereas, consumers have repeatedly and overwhelmingly expressed their support for country of origin labeling of food products in the United States; and

Whereas, in 2008, the United States Congress overwhelmingly passed mandatory country of origin labeling for muscle cuts and ground meat sold at retail, requiring meat produced from imported livestock or imported boxed meat to bear a different label from meat produced from United States born, raised, and slaughtered livestock; and

Whereas, trade groups and the organizations representing multinational meat packers worked predominantly with Canada, as well as Mexico, to bring a World Trade Organization case against the United States for the removal of the country of origin labeling requirements; and

Whereas, in 2015, the United States Congress repealed the country of origin labeling law for beef and pork, reducing the competitive advantage of products born, raised, and slaughtered in the United States; and

Whereas, the United States has the highest food safety standards in the world, while other countries place less emphasis on food safety; and

Whereas, foreign commodities like beef and pork are misleadingly labeled "Product of the USA" if they are processed or packed in the United States; and

Whereas, country of origin labeling gives producers and consumers the ability to distinguish true American products from foreign imported meat; and

Whereas, technological advancements make it possible to accurately and efficiently identify the origins of beef and pork without costly separation of imported and domestic commodities; and

Whereas, country of origin labeling is good for farmers, ranchers, workers, and meat packers because it allows them to identify their products as born, raised, and slaughtered in the United States; and

Whereas, the Missouri General Assembly supports American products, and consumers deserve the right to know the origins of their food:

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the members of the Missouri Senate, One Hundred Third General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby support the right of consumers to know the origins of their food, support the use of country of origin labels, and urge the United States Congress to reinstate mandatory country of origin labeling; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Secretary of the Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for each member of Missouri's Congressional delegation.