

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16

INTRODUCED BY A. OLSZEWSKI

BY REQUEST OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, AND IRRIGATION STANDING

COMMITTEE

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING CONGRESS TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE AND NEED FOR COUNTRY-OF-ORIGIN LABELING ON BEEF AND PORK PRODUCTS.

WHEREAS, in 2002, Congress reauthorized the Farm Bill, which included mandatory country-of-origin labeling for beef, lamb, pork, farm-raised and wild fish, peanuts, and other perishable commodities; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, the Montana Legislature passed the Country of Origin Placarding Act until "funding and full implementation of federal mandatory country of origin labeling"; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, Montana's county-of-origin labeling (COOL) laws were voided, as the federal act was implemented; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, federal COOL rules ceased being enforced for beef and pork products only due mainly to a World Trade Organization ruling; and

WHEREAS, consumers want to know the origin their food; and

WHEREAS, American and Montana farmers and ranchers want consumers to know the origin of their food; and

WHEREAS, Congress should pass laws and the U.S. Department of Agriculture should administer rules and regulations for COOL certification for beef and pork products that do not impose undue compliance costs, liability, recordkeeping, or verification requirements on farmers and ranchers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the Senate and the House of Representatives of the 66th Montana Legislature urges Congress to pass a federal COOL law for beef and pork products that meets World Trade Organization requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the individual



1 members of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate.

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