

House Concurrent Resolution No. 33

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MCCREERY.

2270H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

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

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

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

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

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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

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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

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WHEREAS, in 2015, the United States Congress repealed the country of origin labeling law for beef and pork, reducing the competitive advantage of products born, raised, and slaughtered in the United States; and

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

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

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

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34 **WHEREAS**, technological advancements make it possible to accurately and efficiently
35 identify the origins of beef and pork without costly separation of imported and domestic
36 commodities; and

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

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42 **WHEREAS**, the Missouri General Assembly supports American products, and
43 consumers deserve the right to know the origins of their food:

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45 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
46 Representatives of the One Hundred First General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
47 concurring therein, hereby support the right of consumers to know the origins of their food,
48 support the use of country of origin labels, and urge the United States Congress to reinstate
49 mandatory country of origin labeling; and

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51 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
52 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for each
53 member of Missouri's Congressional delegation.

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