

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 35

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTENSEN.

5049H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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22 **WHEREAS**, in 2015, the United States Congress repealed the country-of-origin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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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