



2021 South Dakota Legislature

Senate Concurrent Resolution 604

Introduced by: **Senator Cammack**

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Supporting trade negotiations to remove barriers to**
 2 **country of origin labelling.**

3 WHEREAS, in 2002, Congress amended the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to require
 4 that retailers notify customers purchasing covered commodities, including beef and pork, of
 5 the commodities' origin, by means of a "Country of Origin Label" (COOL); and

6 WHEREAS, the COOL requirements were not applicable to restaurants, cafeterias, or
 7 processed foods; and

8 WHEREAS, the COOL requirements were designed to provide retailers with flexible labeling
 9 options that included bands, placards, pin tags, signs, stickers, and twist ties, for conveying
 10 the information in a legible form and in a conspicuous manner; and

11 WHEREAS, in May 2015, based on complaints from Canada and Mexico, the World Trade
 12 Organization determined that COOL violated United States trade obligations and threatened
 13 to impose retaliatory duties of \$1.1 billion, unless this country removed the requirement that
 14 covered commodities, including beef and pork, be sold with a COOL; and

15 WHEREAS, in December 2015, Congress removed mandatory COOL requirements for
 16 muscle cut beef and pork, and for ground beef and pork;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Ninety-Sixth Legislature of the
 18 State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the Legislature
 19 urgently requests the President of the United States and the United States Trade
 20 Representative to strongly consider COOL in future trade discussions; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that that the secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this
 22 resolution to the President of the United States, the speaker and clerk of the United States
 23 House of Representatives, the president pro tempore and secretary of the United States
 24 Senate, and to the members of the South Dakota Congressional delegation.