

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 262**

Introduced by Blood, 3.

WHEREAS, the United States cattle industry is the largest segment of American agriculture, annually generating about sixty-seven billion dollars in cash receipts; and

WHEREAS, virtually all imported consumer goods, including pet treats, clothing, tools, and electronic equipment, are required to be labeled indicating their country of origin as a condition of entry into the United States; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska consumers appreciate such labeling because it allows them to exercise a choice in the marketplace of which countries of origin to support with their purchasing dollars; and

WHEREAS, beef cattle production is a leading industry in Nebraska and plays a large role in the agriculture economy; and

WHEREAS, the state leads the nation in cattle on feed and ranks fourth in the total number of cows; and

WHEREAS, mandatory country of origin labeling for beef provides cattle producers in Nebraska and across the United States with a greater ability to compete in the retail grocery market by allowing consumers to choose between purchasing a superior beef product born, raised, and slaughtered in America or a foreign beef product imported from among twenty countries; and

WHEREAS, without mandatory country of origin labeling, multinational beef packers and other importers can harm the American beef industry by offering foreign-sourced beef products without providing consumers knowledge about what they are purchasing; and

WHEREAS, the competitive price established for fed cattle on the fed cattle spot market makes it the most important market for the live cattle

industry; and

WHEREAS, over the past several years the volume of spot-market sales of fed cattle shrank to historic lows; and

WHEREAS, the cattle industry recognizes that the shrinking spot market volume reduces competition in the United States cattle industry and that voluntary and industry-led efforts do not produce meaningful improvements regarding this issue; and

WHEREAS, the spot-market price for fed cattle influences prices for nearly all cattle sold throughout the live cattle supply chain, regardless of age or weight; and

WHEREAS, demand for Nebraska beef increases when American consumers choose to purchase beef entirely produced in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska cattlemen play an incredibly important role in growing Nebraska's economy; and

WHEREAS, the federal American Beef Labeling Act of 2021 introduced by Senator John Thune requires retailers to indicate country of origin labeling for beef products; and

WHEREAS, United States Senate Bill 949 introduced by Senator Chuck Grassley requires beef packers to purchase at least fifty percent of their cattle needs through the spot market and to slaughter those cattle within fourteen days.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Legislature supports both the federal American Beef Labeling Act of 2021 and United States Senate Bill 949 and encourages all members of Congress to cosponsor and quickly pass these bills.

2. That the Clerk of the Legislature prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the majority and minority leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of the Nebraska congressional delegation.