

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 284**

Introduced by Blood, 3; Brewer, 43; Groene, 42; Williams, 36; Murman, 38; Gragert, 40; Brandt, 32.

WHEREAS, American consumers rely on food labeling for truthful, meaningful information about retail food purchases; and

WHEREAS, the fair and efficient functioning of a free market economy requires properly informed consumers; and

WHEREAS, through the federal Fair Packaging and Labeling Program, Congress declared its intention that packages and labels should enable consumers to obtain accurate information; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service holds responsibility for the safety, labeling, and packaging of the nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry, and egg products; and

WHEREAS, the USDA currently permits use of the "Product of U.S.A." label on foreign imported beef or beef food products by the packing and grocery industry; and

WHEREAS, President Biden issued an executive order on July 9, 2021, that directed the USDA to consider new rules defining the conditions under which meat products can bear "Product of U.S.A." and other similar labels so that consumers have accurate, transparent labels that enable them to choose products originating in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in July 2021, the Federal Trade Commission finalized a new rule cracking down on marketers who make false, unqualified claims that their products are "Made in the U.S.A." and specifically requires "Made in the U.S.A." claims on labels be used only for products that are "all or virtually all" made or sourced in the United States; and

WHEREAS, labels inadequately inform consumers beef labeled "Product of

U.S.A." may have only marginal connections with the United States cattle sector and may have been born, raised, and processed in another nation, only to be repackaged and sold under the guise of a "Product of U.S.A." label; and

WHEREAS, this misleading and deceptive practice negatively affects United States cattle producers by driving down prices paid to United States cattle producers and increases profits for the meat packing industry; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska cattle producers and consumers deserve truthful labeling.

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

1. That the Legislature supports an objective review of the "Product of U.S.A." label by the USDA and action to restrict the scope of use in a way that is beneficial for cattle producers and consumers, and is trade compliant.