

Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly, State of North Dakota, begun in the Capitol in the City of Bismarck, on Monday, the sixth day of January, one thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4032
(Senators Tomac, Kelsh)
(Representatives Brandenburg, Brown, DeKrey, Renner)

A concurrent resolution urging the United States Department of Agriculture to support efforts to restore competition in the livestock packing industry.

WHEREAS, the State of North Dakota has many agriculture livestock operations, which support the economy within the state; and

WHEREAS, market prices for cattle have recently fallen to levels that are below the production costs and that this situation is a result of a highly concentrated market; and

WHEREAS, this situation threatens the stability of the economy within the borders of the state; and

WHEREAS, the United States Secretary of Agriculture and the Grain Inspection and Packers and Stockyards Administration have recently published the Western Organization of Resource Councils' Livestock Concentration Rulemaking Petition on behalf of citizens and organizations within North Dakota, and five other states;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

That the Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly of the State of North Dakota supports actions taken by the United States Secretary of Agriculture to restore competitive practices to the livestock slaughter trade, including:

1. Prohibiting packers who process more than five percent of the national daily slaughter of a given species from procuring livestock for slaughter through the use of forward contracts, unless the contracts contain a firm base price that can be equated to a fixed dollar amount on the day the contract is signed and the forward contract is offered or bid in an open, public manner; and
2. Prohibiting packers, other than farmer-owned cooperatives, from owning and feeding livestock, unless the livestock are sold for slaughter in an open, public market; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, the Administrator of the Grain Inspection and Packers and Stockyards Administration and to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 1997,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State