

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1015

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Stating South Dakota's policy on animal identification programs.

WHEREAS, the ability to efficiently track food-producing animals from birth to slaughter is vital to safeguarding animal health, protecting the safety of the food supply, and promoting the economic vitality of South Dakota's animal agriculture industry; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture's National Animal Identification System (NAIS) is a voluntary partnership among producers and government that seeks to provide a uniform animal identification system and ensure a forty-eight-hour trace-back of livestock in the event of a disease outbreak; and

WHEREAS, implementing NAIS focuses on animal identification for animal health and disease control purposes; and

WHEREAS, Section 1619 of the 2008 federal farm bill focuses on producer confidentiality and safeguarding producer information; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture has approved a standardized animal identification system that is technology neutral; South Dakota livestock producers acknowledge the importance of partnering with local, state, and federal regulators to create and maintain effective animal disease programs that utilize animal identification; and South Dakota's producers maintain that state control of animal identification and database systems is preferable to federal control:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Eighty-fourth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the policy of the State of South Dakota is to continue to work with the United States Department of Agriculture and Congress, seeking to ensure that all components of NAIS remain a voluntary animal identification system that adequately protects producer information, and that producer involvement in NAIS shall remain voluntary in South Dakota unless otherwise required by federal law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the policy of South Dakota is that the South Dakota Animal Industry Board shall maintain control of animal identification systems implemented in South Dakota for animal health purposes, and no state agency may attempt to mandate NAIS for nonvoluntary marketing programs.

Adopted by the House of Representatives,
Concurred in by the Senate,

March 4, 2009
March 6, 2009

Timothy A. Rave
Speaker of the House

Karen Gerdes
Chief Clerk of the House

Dennis Daugaard
President of the Senate

Trudy Evenstad
Secretary of the Senate