

# State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-SIXTH SESSION  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2001

336E0826

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1020

Introduced by: Representatives Rhoden, Bartling, Begalka, Bradford, Burg, Duenwald, Elliott, Fryslie, Garnos, Hanson (Gary), Hargens, Hunhoff, Klaudt, Kloucek, Lange, Lintz, Monroe, Nachtigal, Olson (Mel), Peterson (Jim), Pummel, Sigdestad, Slaughter, Valandra, and Van Norman and Senators Bogue, Apa, Diedrich (Larry), Hutmacher, Kleven, Koskan, and Volesky

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Urging the Administration and Congress to prohibit packers  
2 from feeding and owning livestock.

3 WHEREAS, in 1919 the Federal Trade Commission declared that the Big Five Packers were  
4 in the position to monopolize all the nation's food supply; and

5 WHEREAS, in 1920 the Big Five controlled roughly two-thirds of cattle slaughter; and

6 WHEREAS, the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921 was enacted to strengthen existing  
7 antitrust laws and to prevent these or other companies from monopolizing the meat industry  
8 again; and

9 WHEREAS, in 1983 the top four slaughterers had approximately thirty-six percent of the  
10 market, in 1993 the top four slaughterers controlled approximately seventy percent and are now  
11 over eighty percent; and

12 WHEREAS, three major corporations, Con Agra, Excel-Cargil, and IBP, control more than  
13 eighty percent of the beef packing industry and together control major shares of the pork and

1 lamb slaughter industries:

2       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-  
3 sixth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the federal  
4 Administration and the U.S. Congress are urged to prohibit packers from controlling, feeding,  
5 or owning livestock unless the packer is a cooperative in which the producers have sufficient  
6 interest in livestock or the livestock are purchased within fourteen days of slaughter. Packers  
7 currently feeding livestock should have a reasonable length of time to divest themselves of their  
8 livestock feeding enterprises.