

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 242

Introduced by Brewer, 43; Brandt, 32; Clements, 2; Erdman, 47; Gragert, 40; Halloran, 33.

WHEREAS, congressional efforts in the One Hundred Sixteenth United States Congress focused on the support and expansion of small meat processors; and

WHEREAS, markets available to farmers and ranchers in Nebraska should be expanded by federal and state legislation without compromising food safety standards or market access under existing trade agreements; and

WHEREAS, electronic commerce and other innovations offer opportunities for bringing new customers to small meat processors; and

WHEREAS, following the enactment of certain federal laws, a state meat and poultry inspection program in Nebraska approved by the Food Safety and Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture would allow meat and poultry grown and processed in Nebraska to be sold in other states; and

WHEREAS, entry into the market for small meat processors can be eased through grants that lower the cost of food safety regulations, feasibility studies, overtime fees, federal inspections, and training; and

WHEREAS, the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, includes grants totaling sixty million dollars for small meat processors to update and expand their facilities; and

WHEREAS, up to two hundred thousand dollars of such grant money can be used to update or expand a small meat processing facility to meet the inspection standards of the United States Department of Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, expanding market options for meat products through these federal acts and programs will be beneficial for livestock producers in Nebraska.

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

1. That the Legislature urges the congressional delegation of Nebraska to pass legislation that supports farmers, ranchers, and small meat processors without compromising food safety standards and foreign market access.

2. That a copy of this resolution be delivered to each member of the Nebraska congressional delegation.