



Midwestern Legislative Conference

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

73rd Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments

July 15 – 18, 2018

Resolution Voicing Support for Federal Legislation Regarding the Interstate Shipment of State Inspected Meat

- WHEREAS,** the Federal Meat Inspection Act of 1967 and the Poultry Products Inspection Act of 1968 requires all state meat and poultry inspection programs to be equivalent to federal standards; and
- WHEREAS,** 27 states, including Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin, have adopted state meat inspection programs that equal or exceed federal standards; and
- WHEREAS,** none of the companies operating in the 27 states with state inspection programs can sell meat across state lines unless those products are approved by a U.S. Department of Agriculture inspector — even though by law, state inspection programs must be “equal to or better than” federal inspection; and
- WHEREAS,** other commodities, such as milk, dairy products, fruits, vegetables, fish, shellfish, and complex canned products, which are inspected under state jurisdiction, are allowed to be marketed freely throughout the U.S.; and
- WHEREAS,** any foreign-inspected meat can be shipped to and sold anywhere in the U.S. as long as that country’s foreign inspection program is equivalent to U.S. federal standards, which in practice is the same standard that state-inspected programs must meet; and
- WHEREAS,** the ban on interstate shipping only serves to slow the growth of small businesses such as farms and processors, limit purchasing options for consumers, impede rural economic development, and further encourage the concentration of the meat processing industry; and
- WHEREAS,** the Midwestern Legislative Conference (MLC) has been on record for more than a decade supporting the interstate shipment of state inspected meat; and
- WHEREAS,** S.2814: New Markets for State Inspected Meat and Poultry Act of 2018 has been introduced in a bipartisan fashion to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act and Poultry Products Inspection Act to allow interstate sales of state inspected meat; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** the MLC urges members of the U.S. Congress to join the bipartisan efforts to ensure that this legislation is enacted independently or as part of the renewal of the farm bill; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that this resolution be submitted to appropriate state and federal officials.

Adopted this 18th day of July, 2018 at the 73rd MLC Annual Meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba