



Midwestern Legislative Conference

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

80th Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments

Saint Paul, Minnesota

Aug. 30 – Sept. 2, 2026

Resolution on Recognizing the Importance of Fair Competition, Strong Supply Chains and Economic Opportunity in Grocery Retail and Meat Processing

- WHEREAS,** a competitive grocery retail and meat processing sector is essential to ensuring affordable food, resilient supply chains, economic opportunity, and consumer choice; and
- WHEREAS,** farmers, ranchers, workers, consumers, independent businesses, and local communities all benefit when markets remain competitive and accessible; and
- WHEREAS,** increasing consolidation in grocery retail and meat processing has concentrated economic power among a small number of large corporations, reducing competition throughout the food supply chain; and
- WHEREAS,** several major retailers have expanded their ownership and control of meat processing facilities, including investments in poultry and livestock production and processing operations; and
- WHEREAS,** greater vertical integration may create efficiencies but can also raise concerns regarding market access, competitive fairness, pricing transparency, and the ability of independent producers and businesses to compete on equal terms; and
- WHEREAS,** robust competition helps ensure that farmers and ranchers receive fair market opportunities, workers have access to quality jobs, consumers benefit from competitive prices, and local businesses can participate in regional economies; and
- WHEREAS,** U.S. federal laws, including the Robinson-Patman Act and the Packers and Stockyards Act, were enacted to prevent unfair preferences and discriminatory practices that distort markets and undermine competition; and
- WHEREAS,** policymakers at all levels of government share a responsibility to promote fair and open markets, support economic opportunity, and prevent anticompetitive conduct that harms consumers, producers, workers, and small businesses; and

- WHEREAS,** preserving diverse and competitive food supply chains strengthens economic resilience, food security, and local economic development; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** The Midwestern Legislative Conference (MLC) recognizes the importance of maintaining competitive grocery retail and meat processing markets that provide opportunities for workers, farmers, ranchers, consumers, and independent businesses; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** The MLC supports policies that promote fair competition, transparency, market access, and economic opportunity throughout the grocery retail and meat processing industries; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Attorneys General of the eleven MLC states and to the appropriate provincial ministers of consumer protection and fair-trading acts in the provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Saskatchewan, the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture for their consideration.