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**Resolution # 103-120912**  
**Sponsor – NSAAS**

**Resolution on Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling**

**WHEREAS**, the Council of State Governments' Eastern Regional Conference (CSG/ERC) is comprised of the 11 Northeast states from Maine to Maryland, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and five Canadian Provinces; **and**

**WHEREAS**, the United States and Canada have the largest trading relationship in the world, with U.S. exports of agricultural products to Canada totaling \$20.6 billion in 2012; **and**

**WHEREAS**, in 2009, the U.S. implemented mandatory Country of Origin Labeling (mCOOL) regulations, which the World Trade Organization (WTO) ruled discriminated against imported livestock; **and**

**WHEREAS**, new regulations recently implemented by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to address the WTO ruling are even more restrictive than the previous rules; **and**

**WHEREAS**, mandatory COOL is jeopardizing the competitiveness of the U.S. packing and feeding industries, including small Northeastern processors, as well as increasing cost and liability exposure for retail food stores with the potential for significant job losses and plant closures; **and**

**WHEREAS**, scientific studies have shown that consumer preferences are not impacted by country of origin labeling, while producers and retailers have reported increased costs of compliance; **now therefore be it;**

**RESOLVED**, that CSG/ERC requests that the U.S. Congress implement a legislative solution that will not have unintended consequences on the farm producers and retailers in the Northeast; **and be it further**

**RESOLVED**, that this resolution be submitted to appropriate state and federal officials.