



RESOLUTION #AG2018-03

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF VOICING SUPPORT FOR FEDERAL LEGISLATION  
REGARDING THE INTERSTATE SHIPMENT OF STATE INSPECTED MEAT

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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 Delaware, Maine and Vermont in the ERC region, 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 are '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 the U.S. foreign 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 farm and processors and purchasing options to consumers, impede rural economic development and further encourage the concentration of meat processing industry; and

WHEREAS, the Eastern Regional Conference (ERC) has been on record for many years 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 sale of state inspected meat;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the ERC urges members of the U.S. Congress to join the bipartisan efforts to ensure 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.