

**THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS  
RESOLUTION ON INTERSTATE SALE OF STATE INSPECTED MEAT AND  
POULTRY**

**Resolution Summary**

This resolution urges Congress to pass H.R. 1760, *The Expanding Markets for Small Meat Processors Act*, which would eliminate the ban on the interstate shipment of state-inspected meat, allowing small meat processors to increase their business and grow local economies. States often develop their own meat inspection programs to provide the flexibility needed to accommodate small businesses. Although these inspection programs are equivalent to federal standards, currently there are restrictions on the interstate shipment of state-inspected meat.

No other agricultural commodity has this type of restriction, state-inspected milk, fruits, vegetables, grain and fish are all allowed free access to the national market. Currently foreign products have greater nationwide meat market access than state-inspected meat. *The Expanding Markets for Small Meat Processors Act* would eliminate the interstate shipment ban, while ensuring that states maintain their high safety standards. Lifting this restriction will give small meat processors the ability to ship these products in interstate commerce, not only greatly expanding the market for their products, but also benefiting consumers and rural areas.

This legislation supports the efforts of states that already have a federally equivalent state inspection program and may encourage other states to look at this as an option for adding value to livestock operations.

This resolution was approved by the Midwestern Legislative Conference on Aug. 23, 2006 at their annual meeting.

**Interstate Sale of State Inspected Meat and Poultry Management Directive:**

**Management Directive #1:** CSG staff would need to send copies of this to members of Congress on the House and Senate Agriculture Committees, state Agriculture Commissioners and Directors and the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

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- WHEREAS,** the Federal Meat Inspection Act of 1967 and the Poultry Products Inspection Act of 1968 required all state meat and poultry inspection programs to be “at least equal” to federal standards; and
- WHEREAS,** 28 States have adopted state meat inspection programs that equal or exceed federal standards; and
- WHEREAS,** states are allowed to inspect “non-amenable” products—such as venison, buffalo, squab, quail and pheasant—and interstate shipment of these state inspected products has been allowed for many years and deemed safe for commerce and consumers; and
- WHEREAS,** other commodities, such as milk, dairy products, fruit, vegetables, fish, shellfish, and complex canned products, which are inspected under state jurisdiction, are allowed to be marketed freely throughout the United States; 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—in practice the same standard which Federally approved state-inspected programs must meet; and
- WHEREAS,** state-inspected meat and poultry are the *only* commodities that are restricted from sale across state lines; and
- WHEREAS,** the 2002 Farm Bill included report language supporting the merits of interstate meat shipment and required United States Department of Agriculture to conduct a new, comprehensive review of state inspection programs; and
- WHEREAS,** three USDA Advisory Committees have recommended that the ban on interstate shipment be removed: USDA’s Advisory Committee on Agricultural Concentration (June 1996); USDA’s National Commission on Small Farms (January 1998); and the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection (NACMPI), (May 1998 and June 2002); and
- WHEREAS,** the demand for high quality local products is not limited to within a state border; and

**WHEREAS,** HR 1760 has been introduced in Congress to address this obvious inequity; now therefore be it

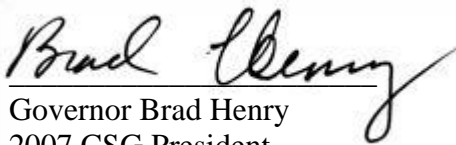
**RESOLVED,** that The Council of State Governments urges all members of Congress to join the bipartisan efforts to ensure that legislation is enacted to allow the interstate shipment of state inspected meats and poultry; and be it further


**RESOLVED,** that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all members of Congress on the House and Senate Agriculture Committees; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** that this resolution be submitted to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** that a copy of this resolution be sent to state Agriculture Commissioners and Directors.

Adopted this 13<sup>th</sup> Day of June, 2007 at the  
CSG Spring National Committee and Task Force Meetings  
In Puerto Rico

  
Governor Brad Henry  
2007 CSG President

  
Representative Deborah Hudson  
2007 CSG Chair