

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 78

## 100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE KNIGHT.

5175H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

1           **WHEREAS**, agriculture is the largest industry in Missouri, with an annual economic  
2 contribution of \$88 billion and employing nearly 400,000 people statewide; and

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4           **WHEREAS**, according to the University of Missouri Extension Service, Missouri ranked  
5 third in beef cattle inventories as of 2017 and, according to the United State Department of  
6 Agriculture (USDA), was home to over 4.25 million head of cattle, including calves, in 2018;  
7 and

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9           **WHEREAS**, in 2017, Missouri cattle and calves cash receipts indicated \$1.9 billion in  
10 value and Missouri earned an estimated \$207 million for its beef and veal exports, according to  
11 the USDA's Economic Research Service; and

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13           **WHEREAS**, many farmers across the state rely on cattle and beef markets to provide an  
14 income to support their families and the families of those they employ; and

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16           **WHEREAS**, the markets for both feeder and fed cattle and wholesale beef prices  
17 experienced severe reactions to the August 9, 2019, fire at the Tyson beef packing plant in  
18 Holcomb, Kansas; and

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20           **WHEREAS**, prices for feeder and fed cattle plummeted and wholesale beef prices  
21 skyrocketed in the days following the fire; and

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23           **WHEREAS**, several organizations expressed concern about the ability for market  
24 manipulation. In an August 13, 2019, letter to the chair of the Commodity Futures Trading  
25 Commission, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association asked the commission to "keep an even  
26 closer eye on the cattle markets to ensure that no market participant tries to use the uncertainty  
27 to manipulate or illegally take advantage of the situation"; and

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29           **WHEREAS**, USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue said in an August 28, 2019, statement that  
30 he has "directed USDA's Packers and Stockyards Division to launch an investigation into recent  
31 beef pricing margins to determine if there is any evidence of price manipulation, collusion,  
32 restrictions of competition or other unfair practices"; and

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34           **WHEREAS**, the members of the General Assembly of this state are concerned about the  
35 effects of major packers dumping stocks on Missouri farmers and the entire economy of the  
36 United States:

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38           **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of  
39 Representatives of the One Hundredth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate  
40 concurring therein, hereby urge USDA Secretary Perdue to complete a full investigation into any  
41 market manipulation following the fire at the Tyson beef packing plant and ensure swift  
42 resolution and penalties for any parties found to have manipulated the market in order to gain  
43 an unfair advantage at the expense of farmers, especially those in Missouri; and

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45           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of  
46 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the  
47 Secretary of the USDA and each member of the Missouri congressional delegation.

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