



Policy Directives and Resolutions for Consideration

2019 NCSL Capitol Forum
Phoenix, Arizona

CONSENT CALENDAR

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1 **COMMITTEE:** **NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

2 **POLICY:** **ANIMAL AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION**

3 **TYPE:** **DIRECTIVE**

4 The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) believes a strong animal
5 production agriculture capacity is imperative in maintaining domestic and international
6 consumer confidence in the safety of the United States meat supply.

7

8 **Animal Identification**

9 NCSL believes a national animal identification program, if properly implemented in
10 cooperation with the states and territories, could be beneficial in maintaining consumer
11 confidence in meat from the United States, an invaluable tool in reducing and tracking
12 future outbreaks of infectious disease, and serving as an important firewall against any
13 attempted terrorist attack on the food production system in the United States.

14

15 Any future effort by USDA to develop a national animal identification program must be
16 designed and implemented in full consultation with state legislatures to ensure proper
17 attention to public interest and financial considerations. Any program must be designed
18 and implemented in cooperation with the departments of agriculture of the states and
19 territories. USDA must work to ensure that any animal identification system is
20 compatible with the current inspection and enforcement systems of the state
21 governments. Any applicable federal program should not be applied to animals involved
22 in intrastate commerce without state consultation.

23

24 **Interstate Sale of State-Inspected Meat and Poultry**

25 NCSL encourages USDA to continue the Cooperative Interstate Shipment Program in
26 qualifying states as the program levels the economic playing field for small businesses,
27 spurs more competition in the marketplace, creates a more uniform inspection system,
28 and enhances consumer confidence in the food supply – all of which benefit farmers,
29 ranchers, processors, small business and consumers.