

**PENNINGTON COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA RESOLUTION
OPPOSITION TO MANDATORY ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION (EID)
LIVESTOCK TAGS**

WHEREAS, effective November 5, 2024, the United States Department of Agriculture Animal & Plant Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) implemented a rule mandating that all sexually intact cattle and bison over 18 months of age, all dairy cattle, and all cattle and bison used for rodeo, exhibition, or recreational events crossing state boundaries must be tagged with electronic identification (EID) tags that are both visually and electronically readable; and

WHEREAS, the cost of implementing the EID tagging system disproportionately impacts small and medium-sized independent farmers and ranchers, while larger corporate-owned herds may benefit from cost-saving practices such as group tagging; and

WHEREAS, concerns have been raised that the mandate may be overreaching, intrusive, and potentially circumvent privacy protections, posing a threat to the livelihoods of independent cattle and bison producers; and

WHEREAS, independent, family-owned cattle ranches play a vital role in the economic stability and cultural heritage of local communities and the broader national economy; and

WHEREAS, the United States has consistently maintained one of the safest and highest-quality meat supplies globally under the current traceability system, which stakeholders argue is already effective without mandatory EID tagging; and

WHEREAS, South Dakota Codified Law § 40-3-27 authorizes the Animal Industry Board to develop programs for identifying animals and premises involved in animal movement, ensuring confidentiality of records except for law enforcement or mandatory disease control, and allowing livestock owners to use approved identification methods, including those in 9 C.F.R. part 86; as adopted January 9, 2013, and

WHEREAS, Senator Mike Rounds has opposed the federal mandate requiring EID tags for livestock, emphasizing concerns about the lack of voluntary participation options and the absence of adequate funding to support its implementation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pennington County Board of Commissioners formally opposes the mandatory EID tag requirement by USDA APHIS.

Dated this 14th day of February, 2025.



[Handwritten Signature]

Ron Weifenbach, Chair
Pennington County Board of Commissioners

Attest:
Sabrina Green Deputy Auditor
Pennington County Auditor/Deputy