

**Consumers Union's Petition on behalf of 17,655 Citizens, spanning every state in the country, to US Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS), Docket No. APHIS-2006-0041, Bovine; Minimal Risk Regions; Importation of Live Bovines and Products Derived from Bovines  
March 12, 2007**

On behalf of the 17,655 citizens, from every state in the country, whose names are attached to this letter, Consumers Union<sup>1</sup> (CU), publisher of Consumer Reports, urges the US Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS) to not further amend its regulations regarding the importation of animals and animal products so as to allow the importation into the US from Canada of live bovines born after March 1999, blood and blood products derived from bovines, and casings and parts of the small intestine derived from bovines.

The text of the petition signed by the 17,655 citizens reads as follows:

**USDA Should Not Increase Mad Cow Disease Risks by Allowing Imports of Older Cattle From Canada**

(Public Comment Docket No. APHIS-2006-0041)

Please ensure that we don't bring mad cow disease into the U.S. through importation from Canada.

In 2006, five Canadian cows tested positive for mad cow disease. Three of them were born after March, 1999, the date after which USDA says all Canadian cows are safe. I'm writing to urge you not to reopen the Canadian border to cows born after March, 1999. I am also asking you not to allow imports of cow blood and intestines from Canada. Instead you should prohibit imports of Canadian cattle until better safeguards are in place in the US to protect the human food supply from mad cow disease.

Canada appears to have a significant problem with mad cow disease. The USDA's plan to reopen the border to older cattle and to blood products and intestines is simply not cautious enough. Canada has found a total of eight cases of mad cow disease, five of them in 2006 alone. Scientific studies have shown that blood can transmit mad cow

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<sup>1</sup> Consumers Union is a nonprofit membership organization chartered in 1936 under the laws of the State of New York to provide consumers with information, education and counsel about goods, services, health, and personal finances; and to initiate and cooperate with individual and group efforts to maintain and enhance the quality of life for consumers. Consumers Union's income is derived solely from the sale of *Consumer Reports*, its other publications and from noncommercial contributions, grants and fees. In addition to reports on Consumers Union's own product testing, *Consumer Reports*, with approximately 4.5 million paid subscribers to print and 2.5 million paid subscribers to the internet addition, regularly carries articles on health, product safety, marketplace economics and legislative, judicial and regulatory actions which affect consumer welfare. Consumers Union's publications carry no advertising and receive no commercial support.

disease and that cattle intestines can harbor the agent that is thought to be responsible.

The USDA can do much more than it currently does to minimize the threat of mad cow disease in the US food supply. The USDA should close the border to all cattle and beef from Canada until USDA tests all cows over 20 months of age.

Sincerely,

First Name	Last Name	City	State
Stephen	Sanders	Osprey	FL
Tom	Boughan	Cowan,	TN
Eugene	Stern	long beach	NY
Michele	L Levandowski	Puyallup	WA
Alaina	D'Ambrosia-Donner	Upland	CA
Tim	Martin	Woodside	CA
Robert	Seltzer	Malibu	CA
William	Hirsbrunner	Galesburg	IL
Sharyn	Wells	Bothell	WA
Jacqueline	Fralley	Kensington,	MD
Carla	Vauthrin	Colorado Springs	CO
Bonnie	Binninger	Danville	IN
Carl	Sacks	Glen Rock	PA
Lynn	Lang	Saint Cloud	MN
Mary	Owens	Cloudcroft	NM
Curtis	Cole	Prattville	AL
Sherri	Fryer	Clymer	PA
joan	pigg	Dayton	OH
John	Willms	Jersey City	NJ
David	P. Dougherty	New Britain	CT
Robert	Bruner Jr CM	Hermitage	TN
Gina	DeCrescentis	Aurora	CO
john	kilcher	knox	NY
Joanne	Fritz	Clifton Park	NY
Barbara	Wolin	Brooklyn	NY
Larry	Jouskey	Louisville	KY
Mickey	Sohn	Melbourne	FL
Lisa	Manis	Santa Fe	NM
Richard	Jarosik	Snohomish	WA
James	Olsen	Boonton Township	NJ
Waynn	Bentley	Lufkin	TX
Jim	Knapp	Orlando	FL
Joseph	Costello	Loris	SC
Sandi	Miller	Orange	CA
Frances	Kinslow	Mountain View	HI
Janet	Hirschhorn	Methuen	MA
Linda	Crook	Desert Hot Springs	CA
David	Abere	Brooklyn, NY	NY
Paul	Finnegan	Dallas	TX
Regina	Benge	Brodhead	KY
Alan	Furchtenicht	Madison	WI
Sandra	Wagner	Bryan	OH
Leslie	DeFilippis	Boston	MA
Barbara	Nanstiel	Wilkes-Barre	PA

The original document contained the remainder of the  
17,655 names.