

**Petition to Stop USDA’s Electronic Identification (EID) Eartag Mandate
for Cattle and Bison**

We, the undersigned U.S. cattle producers, are requesting Congress to represent our interests in animal identification. We ask for the preservation of our right to choose from various official animal identification methods and devices when complying with current and future state or federal animal identification initiatives. We also urge Congress to immediately stop the new U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) rule that mandates electronic ear tags for adult cattle and bison crossing state lines.

We request Congress to continually support our rights and privileges described in the 2013 final rule, “Traceability of Livestock Moving Interstate,” that states, “Official Identification Devices and Methods” include official eartags, which include metal eartags (such as the orange-colored metal brucellosis tags) containing a National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) number that does not require premises registration or a Premises Identification Number (PIN); properly registered brands accompanied by an official brand inspection certificate; tattoos and other identification methods acceptable to breed associations (accompanied by a breed registration certificate); group/lot identification numbers; backtags; or other forms of identification as agreed to by the shipping and receiving states.

Specifically, we call for Congress to pass S.B. 4282, S.J. Res. 98, and H.J. Res. 167 to prevent USDA from mandating electronic identification for cattle and bison, preserving our vital right of choice.

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