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The Honorable Max Baucus  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: ENDORSEMENT OF THE TRACEBACK BILL PROPOSAL BY RANCHERS-CATTLEMEN ACTION LEGAL FUND, UNITED STOCKGROWERS OF AMERICA (R-CALF USA)**

Dear Senator Baucus,

R-CALF USA is pleased to inform you that our organization supports what is referred to as the *The Traceback Bill*, a proposal by John Munsell of Montana to achieve traceback of beef products to their point of slaughter. Your office has previously received a copy of this proposal. We strongly encourage you and Montana's other congressional members to consider carrying such legislation in Washington, D.C.

One reason for our endorsement of this proposal is the recent *E.coli* recalls in America. Subsequent news media reports show that consumers' confidence has been shaken, which could reduce consumer demand for our beef products. R-CALF USA is concerned that continuing recalls will occur until USDA forces the slaughter plants, which are the origin of *E.coli* and *Salmonella*-contaminated meat, to implement effective corrective actions.

If passed, *The Traceback Bill* proposal would require USDA to trace back to the plant of pathogen contamination, and force noncompliant plants to change production practices to reduce the likelihood of shipping contaminated meat into commerce. R-CALF USA firmly believes that USDA enforcement actions must be directed toward plants that are the source of contamination, not at downstream facilities, which are merely the destination of previously contaminated meat.

R-CALF USA's member-approved policy supports immediate reforms to the current HACCP form of meat inspection to, among other things, enable accurate tracebacks of meat products, as would be achieved by *The Traceback Bill* proposal.

R-CALF USA thanks you for your consideration of this important proposal. Please let us know if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

R.M. Thornsberry, D.V.M.  
President, R-CALF USA Board of Directors