

*Fighting for the U.S. Cattle Producer!*



**R-CALF**  
*USA*

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July 3, 2008

The Honorable Tim Johnson  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Johnson,

On behalf of the thousands of cattle-producing members of R-CALF USA located throughout the United States, we greatly appreciate and strongly support your legislation to prohibit the importation of certain animals and animal products from Argentina until every region of Argentina is free of foot and mouth disease without vaccination.

Foot and mouth disease (FMD) is recognized internationally as one of the most contagious diseases of cloven-hoofed animals and it bears the potential to cause severe economic losses to U.S. cattle producers. Your legislation recognizes that the most effective prevention measure against this highly contagious disease is to ensure that it is not imported into the United States from countries where FMD is known to exist or was recently detected.

R-CALF USA stands ready to assist you in building both industry and congressional support for this important, disease-prevention measure. Thank you for initiating this needed legislation to protect the U.S. cattle industry from the unnecessary and potentially dangerous exposure to FMD from Argentinean imports.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. M. Thornsberry D.V.M." with a stylized flourish at the end.

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