

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



**R-CALF**  
*USA*

**R-CALF United Stockgrowers of America**  
P.O. Box 30715  
Billings, MT 59107  
Fax: 406-252-3176  
Phone: 406-252-2516  
Website: [www.r-calfusa.com](http://www.r-calfusa.com)  
E-mail: [r-calfusa@r-calfusa.com](mailto:r-calfusa@r-calfusa.com)

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January 26, 2009

The Honorable Tim Johnson  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Enzi  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Johnson and Enzi,

On behalf of the thousands of cattle-producing members of R-CALF USA located throughout the United States, we greatly appreciate and strongly support the reintroduction in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress of your joint 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 (FMD) without vaccination.

Foot-and-mouth disease 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 reintroducing this needed legislation in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress to protect the U.S. cattle industry from the unnecessary and dangerous exposure to FMD from Argentinean imports.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. M. Thornsberry D.V.M." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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