

September 17, 2012

VIA EMAIL

Mr. Joel Gill
Checkoff Chairman
R-CALF USA
476 Yazoo St.
Pickens, MS 39146

Dear Joel,

Your involvement in the Beef Checkoff Industry Input Group is very important. Your insights, ideas, and experience with the checkoff all play an enormous role in the thoughtful discussions this group has been able to have.

As you know, the recent lawsuit filed by Mike Callicrate in regard to the checkoff and one of its contractors, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), has caused some serious concern among many cattlemen and their organizations; especially in regard to having the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) involved with Mr. Callicrate and the Organization for Competitive Markets (OCM).

In addition, in the past weeks your organization, R-CALF USA, has indicated in a letter to USDA Sec. Vilsack that it "supports the actions called for in the lawsuit" and if the Secretary does not act on the letter, "[R-CALF] will consider joining the lawsuit." Obviously, this stance is much different than the stated goal of the Industry Input Group which is to explore enhancements to the Beef Checkoff.

As you know, several of the organizations represented on the Input Group are current contractors to the Cattlemen's Beef Board (CBB) including NCBA, the American National CattleWomen (ANCW), the Meat Importers Council of America (MICA), and the National Livestock Producers Association (NLPA). Also, some of the individuals in the group have already been named in the lawsuit as a result of them serving as either a Beef Board member or a Beef Promotion Operating Committee member. As a result, there is a very high degree of discomfort with R-CALF USA being represented in the upcoming meeting of the Industry Input Group on September 24, 2012.

Therefore, the undersigned members of the Input Group voted that neither you, nor any other R-CALF representative, may attend the upcoming meeting as a result of the position your organization has communicated to Sec. Vilsack. This is absolutely not a reflection on you personally; as stated previously, your contributions have been most helpful and appreciated. However, until such time R-CALF is in a position to more fully and positively engage in the Input Group's goal of enhancing the Beef Checkoff without the potential of joining in a lawsuit, the members of the Group have voted that R-CALF not continue as a member of the group.

We appreciate your consideration of this position.

Sincerely,

The Beef Checkoff Industry Input Group:

American Farm Bureau Federation
American National CattleWomen
Livestock Marketing Association
Meat Importers Council of America
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Farmers Union
National Livestock Producers Association
U. S. Cattlemen's Association