

May 24, 2007

The Honorable Leonard Boswell, Chairman
House Agriculture Subcommittee on Livestock Dairy and Poultry
United States House of Representatives
1427 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Boswell and Members of the Committee:

As a fourth generation cattleman and Livestock Market Operator, as well as a member of the MS Beef Check-off, I am writing you to strongly object to the misleading and factually wrong statements issued by the Meat and Poultry Promotion Coalition.

I don't know how it goes in Washington but I was raised so that if the first thing I heard from someone wasn't the truth their credibility would be severely damaged. So is the case with the MPPC, which state they represent a vast majority of the livestock, poultry, and meat producers in the United States. As someone who actively works in the U.S. cattle industry on a daily basis for the producers, I can assure you this is a gross misrepresentation of the truth. Strike one.

Their next statement—"...to preserve the profitability of U.S. livestock and meat producers," also warrants questioning, because I can assure you this is not the guiding mission statement from those of this coalition. Their mission is to make a profit and increase shareholder wealth, and I contend that common sense shows that these corporations' welfare and the welfare of producers are diametrically opposed, and I am insulted and astounded that any of those among this coalition would dare to claim to speak for the U.S. cattle producers. Strike two.

Their final statement of the first paragraph states that: "We want to ensure that consumer demand continues to drive business decisions between producers and processors." This double-speak is simply amazing. Will everyone in Washington "love the emperor's new clothes"? Are there no critical thinkers left? Does anyone feel an ounce of civic responsibility to their nation, because the very intent of their letter is to avoid fair competition and true price discovery and keep in place their current practices, such as forward contracts with no base, and captive supplies, which help them accomplish their tyranny over the U.S. producers. One only has to look at the members of this coalition to see they are large corporations and not producers at all. Strike three.

Sir, please throw their appeals "out" for the benefit of this great United States of America.

Respectfully,



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