

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 18, 2011

The Honorable Tom Vilsack  
Secretary of Agriculture  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave. SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

Following your testimony during the February 17, 2011, hearing of the House Agriculture Committee, we are writing in regard to the proposed Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) rule on the marketing of livestock and poultry. Your prompt response to the concerns that have previously been raised on this matter and your commitment to conduct a more thorough economic analysis of the proposed rule are appreciated.

As the Department continues to review the more than 60,000 public comments received and conduct a more thorough economic analysis of the proposed rule, we urge you to proceed in a manner that allows further public comment on revisions to the proposal and the pending economic analysis before a final or interim final rule is published. Withdrawing the June 22, 2010, proposed rule and re-proposing a revised rule once the Department completes its economic analysis would allow stakeholders the opportunity they deserve to comment on what we hope will be substantial changes to the proposal more consistent with the intent of Congress outlined in the 2008 Farm Bill.

During debate over the 2008 Farm Bill, amendments were considered and rejected in both the House and Senate regarding many of the specific provisions the Department has outlined in the proposed rule, such as record keeping and competitive injury. Instead, Congress provided a narrow set of issues for the Department to address. It is troubling that the Department appears to be using the rule-making process to accomplish objectives specifically rejected by Congress, and we are confident any such rule will not be looked upon favorably by Congress.

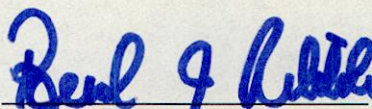
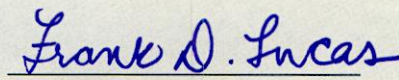
Particularly in a climate in which additional scrutiny is being applied to regulations seen as overreaching or overly burdensome, we urge the Department to proceed in a transparent manner that allows for those most impacted by this action a chance to comment on not only pending changes to the proposal but the accompanying economic analysis as well. Further, to follow up on specific questions raised during the February 17 hearing, we request that the Department provide an update on the timeline for completion of the economic analysis and further action on the proposal.

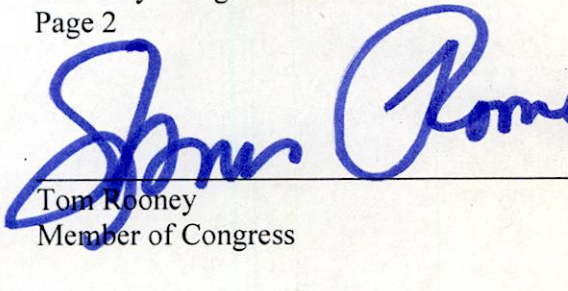
Your consideration is appreciated and we look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



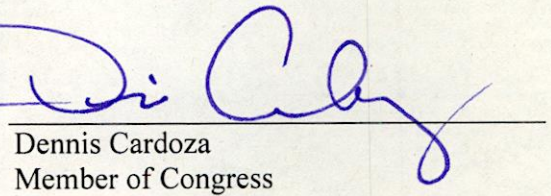
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Costa  
Member of Congress

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Reid Ribble  
Member of Congress  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Frank Lucas  
Member of Congress



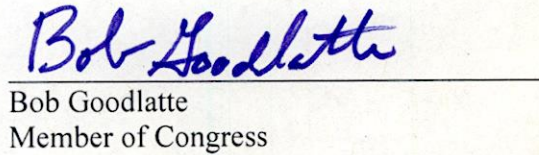
---

Tom Rooney  
Member of Congress



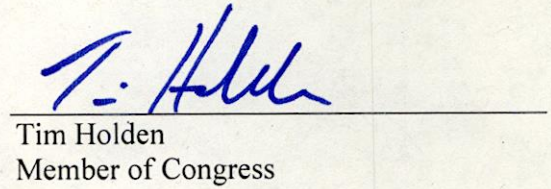
---

Dennis Cardoza  
Member of Congress



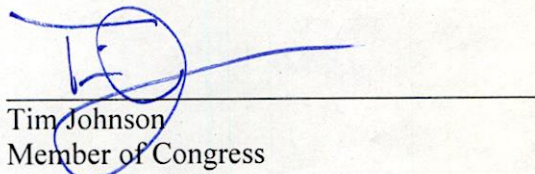
---

Bob Goodlatte  
Member of Congress



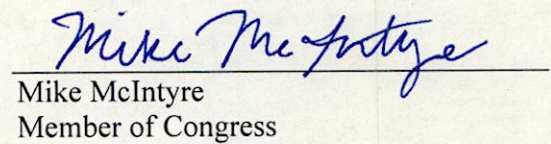
---

Tim Holden  
Member of Congress



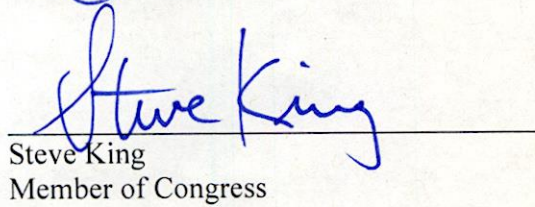
---

Tim Johnson  
Member of Congress



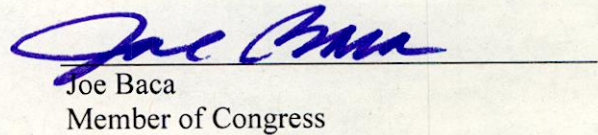
---

Mike McIntyre  
Member of Congress



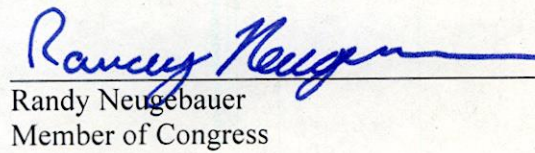
---

Steve King  
Member of Congress



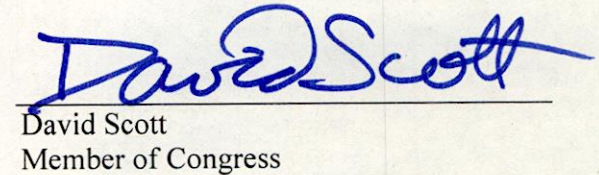
---

Joe Baca  
Member of Congress



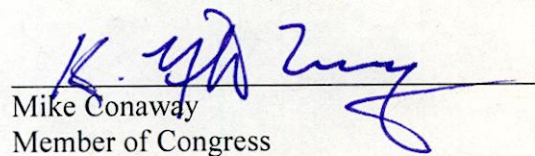
---

Randy Neugebauer  
Member of Congress



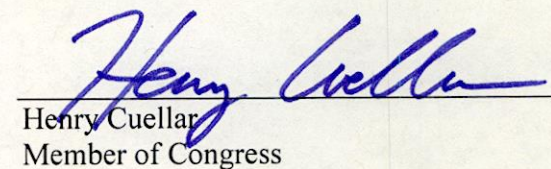
---

David Scott  
Member of Congress



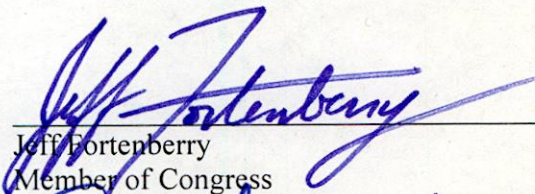
---

Mike Conaway  
Member of Congress



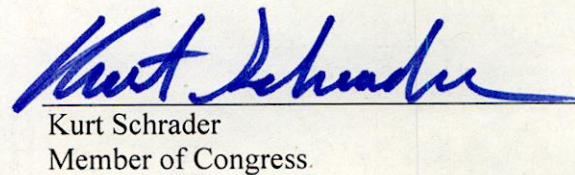
---

Henry Cuellar  
Member of Congress



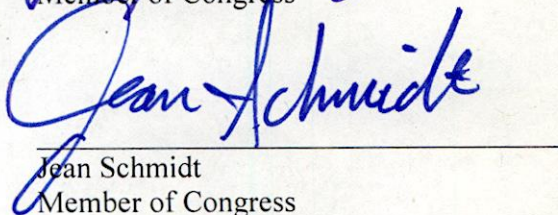
---

Jeff Fortenberry  
Member of Congress



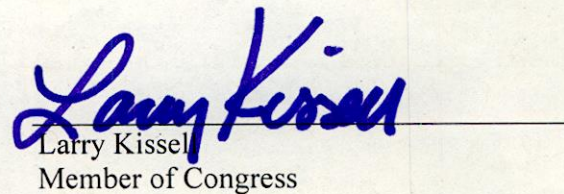
---

Kurt Schrader  
Member of Congress



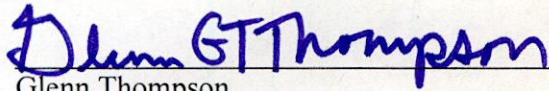
---

Jean Schmidt  
Member of Congress

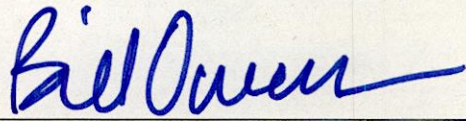


---

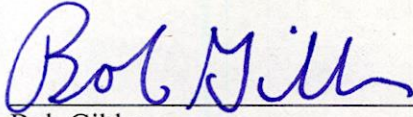
Larry Kissel  
Member of Congress



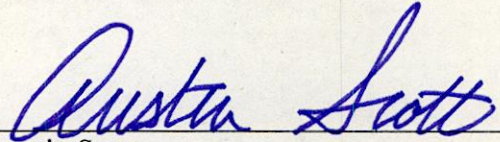
Glenn Thompson  
Member of Congress



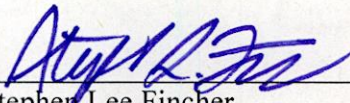
Bill Owens  
Member of Congress



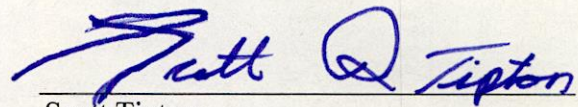
Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress



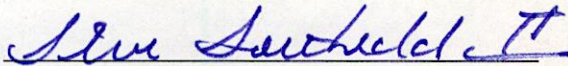
Austin Scott  
Member of Congress



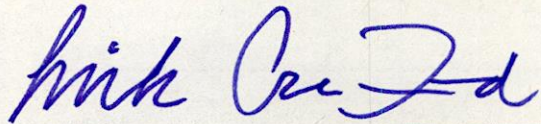
Stephen Lee Fincher  
Member of Congress



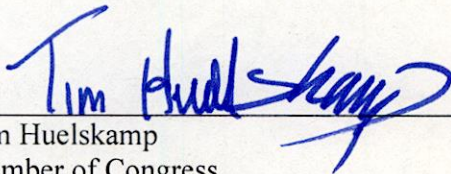
Scott Tipton  
Member of Congress



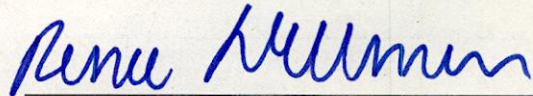
Steve Southerland  
Member of Congress



Rick Crawford  
Member of Congress



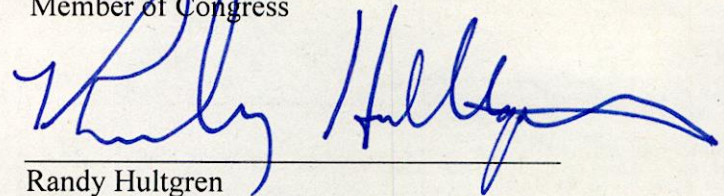
Tim Huelskamp  
Member of Congress



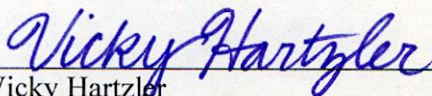
Renee Ellmers  
Member of Congress



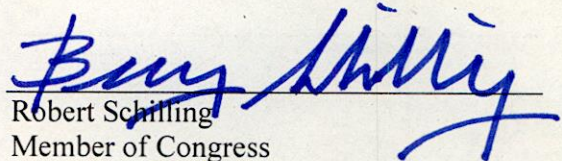
Chris Gibson  
Member of Congress



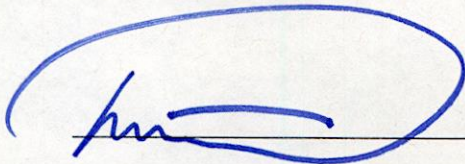
Randy Hultgren  
Member of Congress



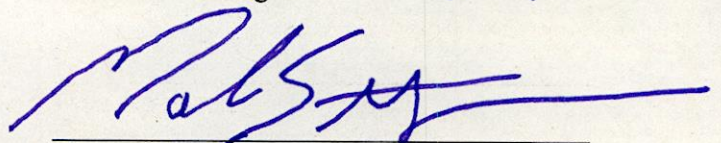
Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress



Robert Schilling  
Member of Congress



Scott DesJarlais  
Member of Congress



Marlin Stutzman  
Member of Congress

Chadwick

Tom Graves

David Nunn

Jeff Jarvis

MSA

Ryan Jenkins

Tom

Larry Bushon

Steve Chaffetz

De Heli

Candice S. Miller

Tim Griffin

Morgan

Virginia Fox

Alan

Bill Hinz

Robert J. With

John S. Jaden

La Causee TX-23

W. Bonbrugh

Don Nunneler

Pine Florn

Steve Wunnack

Hunt

Richard B. Nymet

Ji Jaden

Joe Donnelly

Diane Black

Bill Cassidy

JD

Mo Brooks

Michael H. Michael

Jeyorng

Paul R. Delaney

Blair Lutzmy

Nelly Long

Hank Johnson

Pat Tiboni

Nick Lamm

Mary Pompeo

Bob Bell

Eil Paulsen

M. Dal + M. Dal

Johnsen

Michelle Page

Sue Myrick

Hester

Peter Prosser

Marsha Blackburn

Brett Guthrie

Kevin Lujan

Jim B. Witt

Cory Gardner

Bill Johnson

Ron Paul

Blaine Luntz

Wally Herger

Paul C. Braun

Colt Clarke

Kevin McCarthy

John Campbell

Sam Graves

Gregg Harper

John Sununu

Blake Farnsworth

Doug Walker

Fred Lytle

Ruben Henington

Pete Viselovsky

T. McElther (MI-11)

John Emerso

Soz Wilson

Tom Salham

Mac Foley

Dan Buntin

Mike Simpson

Jeff Balliett

Walter B. Jones

Lee Terry

John Culberson



Steve Chabot

Sam Snow

Lamar Smith

Jim Mathews

Samford H. Byrnes Jr.

Gregory Forbes

Carlson

Tom Car

Clark Kingston

Hal Rogers

Cathy McMoran-Rodgers

Lynn A. Blackburn

Mark Roon

John Kline

John G. <sup>IL-19</sup>

Lee Bortin

Steve Austin

Adrian Smith

John Cate

Thomas Pava

Jim Walberg

Pete Orr

Daniel & Sue

Jim Busby

Joseph R. Pitt

John Bunn

J. N. Chad

Bonnie A. Thompson

Wm. M. ...

Harold Goble

James ...

Bill ...