

October 9, 2003

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

We are writing in representation of millions of consumers and producers across America to express our strong support for full funding in the fiscal year 2004 agriculture appropriations bill for implementation of country-of-origin labeling (COOL).

Senator Daschle, Senator Enzi and Senator Johnson are prepared to offer a Sense of the Senate amendment instructing the agriculture appropriations conferees to remove language inserted into the House of Representatives spending bill, which prohibits the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) from spending funds to implement COOL. We strongly urge you to support the efforts of Senators Daschle, Enzi and Johnson when the amendment is introduced.

A report recently released by the General Accounting Office (GAO) refutes the number one argument of opponents of COOL by clearly stating the \$2 billion price tag attached by USDA was based on arbitrary assumptions and not well supported. Given this recent report and the fact that USDA has yet to release the preliminary rules of implementation, it is simply the right thing to do to maintain implementation funding and keep COOL.

Country-of-origin labeling is designed to provide information to consumers and help U.S. producers promote their own products in the marketplace. It does not need to be burdensome or expensive to producers. We believe that, given a choice, consumers will choose to purchase U.S.-produced products. COOL does not violate any of our trade agreements. In fact, the GAO report cited 48 of our 57 trading partners that require country-of-origin labeling on one or more of the covered commodities included in the U.S. law. Without mandatory COOL, consumers in the United States will be denied the ability to differentiate between U.S. and imported products, while consumers in our trading partners' countries maintain that right.

Please vote in support of the Daschle-Enzi-Johnson Sense of the Senate to maintain funding of COOL.

Sincerely,

National Farmers Union
American Farm Bureau Federation
R-CALF United Stockgrowers of America
Consumer Federation of America
Alabama Farmers Federation
Alabama Peanut Producers
American Agriculture Movement of Arkansas
American Agriculture Movement of Missouri
American Agriculture Movement of Oklahoma
American Agriculture Movement, Inc
American Corn Growers Assoc. of Nebraska
American Corn Growers Association

American Meat Goat Association
Arkansas Farmers Union
Beartooth Stockgrowers Association
Burleigh County Farm Bureau (ND)
C.A.S.A. del Llano (TX)
Calaveras County Cattlemen's Association
California Farmers Union
Cape Cod Cranberry Growers' Association
Center for Rural Affairs (NE)
Churches' Center for Land and People (WI)
Citizens Organized Acting Together

Cochise-Graham Cattle Growers Assoc. (AZ)
 Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CA)
 Crazy Mountain Stockgrowers Assoc. (MT)
 Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease Foundation
 Dakota Resource Council (ND)
 Dakota Rural Action (SD)
 Eagle County Cattlemen's Association (CO)
 Fall River & Big Valley Cattlemen's Assoc. (CA)
 Florida Farm Bureau Federation
 Florida Farmers, Inc.
 Florida Fruit and Vegetable Assoc.
 Florida Tomato Exchange
 Georgia Peanut Commission
 Grant County Cattlemen's Assoc. (WA)
 Holy Cross Cattlemen's Assoc. (CO)
 Idaho Farmers Union
 Illinois Farmers Union
 Illinois National Farmers Organization
 Illinois Stewardship Alliance
 Independent Cattlemen's Assoc. of Texas
 Indiana Farmers Union
 Indiana National Farmers Organization
 Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
 Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement
 Iowa Farmers Union
 Kansas Cattlemen's Association
 Kansas Farmers Union
 Kansas Hereford Association
 Kansas National Farmers Organization
 Kemper County Farm Bureau (MS)
 Kit Carson County Cattlemen's (CO)
 Land Stewardship Project (MN)
 Lincoln County Stockmans Assoc. (CO)
 Livestock Marketing Association
 Madera County Cattlemen's Assoc. (CA)
 Malheur County Cattlemen's Assoc. (OR)
 McPherson County Farmers Union (KS)
 Merced-Mariposa Cattlemen's Assoc. (CA)
 Michigan Farmers Union
 Mid-Nebraska Pride
 Minnesota Farmers Union
 Missouri Farmers Union
 Missouri National Farmers Organization
 Missouri Rural Crisis Center
 Missouri Stockgrowers Association
 Modoc County Cattlemen's Assoc. (CA)
 Montana Agri-Women
 Montana Cattlemen's Association
 Montana Farmers Union
 Montana National Farmers Organization
 Montana Stockgrowers Association
 National Association of Counties
 National Assoc. of Farmer Elected Committees
 National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture
 National Catholic Rural Life Conference
 National Consumers League
 National Family Farm Coalition
 National Farmers Organization
 National Potato Council
 Nebraska Farmers Union
 Nebraska Grange
 Nebraska Livestock Marketing Association
 Nebraska Women Involved in Farm Economics
 Nevada Live Stock Association
 New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association
 New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau
 New Mexico Public Lands Council
 New Mexico Wool Growers, Inc.
 New York National Farmers Organization
 North Dakota Farmers Union
 North Dakota Livestock Marketing Assoc.
 North Dakota Stockmen's Association
 Northern Plains Resource Council
 Ohio Farmers Union
 Oklahoma Farmers Union
 Oregon Cranberry Farmers' Alliance
 Oregon Farm Bureau Federation
 Oregon Farmers Union
 Oregon Livestock Producers Association
 Organization for Competitive Markets
 Park County Stockgrowers Assoc. (MT)
 Pennsylvania Farmers Union
 Platte County Farm Bureau (NE)
 Powder River Basin Resource Council
 Public Citizen
 Rocky Mountain Farmers Union
 Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA
 Rural Roots (ID)
 South Dakota Farmers Union
 South Dakota Stockgrowers Association
 South Eastern Montana Livestock Assoc.
 South Texas Hereford Association
 Southeast Wyoming Cattlefeeders Association
 Southern Peanut Farmers Federation
 Southern Research and Development Corp. (LA)
 Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group
 Soybean Producers of America
 Spokane Cattlemen's Association (WA)
 Stevens County Cattlemen's Association (WA)
 Sustainable Earth (IN)
 Sustainable Food Center (TX)
 Texas Farmers Union
 Union County Cattlemen's Association (OR)
 Utah Farmers Union
 Virginia Angus Association
 Washington Cattlemen's Association
 Washington Farmers Union
 Way Out West Rural Action Group (ID)
 Western Organization of Resource Councils
 Wisconsin Farmers Union
 Wyoming Stockgrowers Association
 Yuma County Cattlemen's Association (CO)