

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

American Meat Institute, *et al.*

*Plaintiffs,*

v.

United States Department of Agriculture, *et al.*

*Defendants.*

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Civil Action No. 13-cv-1033 (KBJ)

**DECLARATION OF ANTHONY CORBO**

I, ANTHONY CORBO, declare as follows:

1. I am employed as Food & Water Watch’s (“FWW”) Legislative Representative on food issues and am a current, dues-paying member of Food & Water Watch. I have been a member since December 2012. I joined FWW staff and became a dues-paying member because I share Food & Water Watch’s goals, particularly its aim to guarantee safe, wholesome food produced in a sustainable manner, as well as its work to promote the practices and policies that will result in sustainable and secure food systems that provide healthy food for consumers and an economically viable living for family farmers and rural communities.

2. In both my professional and personal capacity. I am intimately aware of the subject of the above-captioned lawsuit, the Country of Origin Labeling (“COOL”) law and regulations.

3. Personally, about once per week, I purchase meat, including mutton, pork, and beef from various grocery stores, including Costco, Whole Foods, Trader Joes, Shoppers Food Warehouse, and Safeway. When I do so, I always read the COOL labels to attempt to find out the origin of the product I am purchasing. Given my knowledge of the problems with food safety in other countries and my desire to purchase product that is actually born, raised, and

slaughtered in the United States, I always buy pork and beef products that are labeled “Product of the U.S.” This is not always possible, and so my available options for pork and beef product are those that have multiple countries listed as their country of origin. Because of my knowledge of the existing COOL rules that have been in place since 2009, I know that these products are often “commingled,” meaning their product comes from multiple countries including the United States and that the order of the countries listed does not indicate where the various production steps have taken place. Therefore, when my only option is beef and pork from multiple countries, I usually forgo purchasing such product, even though I know this means that I may be foregoing the purchase of some meat that I would gladly purchase – meat from animals that were born, raised, and slaughtered in the United States.

4. Under the new 2013 COOL rules, on the other hand, the beef and pork products that are actually born, raised, and slaughtered in multiple countries will list the country that these production steps took place. Such meat products will no longer be allowed to be commingled. This means that I will no longer have to forgo purchasing U.S. born, raised, and slaughtered pork and beef just because it is mixed with product from other countries. Also, I hope to one day have confidence in the beef and pork born or raised in other countries, and the 2013 rules will enable me to selectively purchase products based on my knowledge of safety problems in the various countries where the production steps for these products took place.

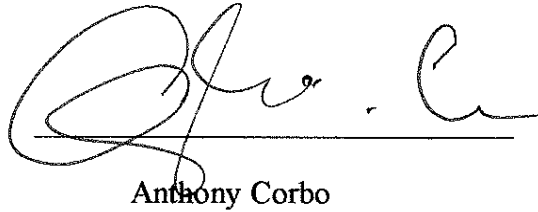
5. Were the 2013 COOL rules to be vacated, however, the existing 2009 rules would be in place. I would once again be forced to avoid products listed from multiple countries.

6. In sum, the pre-2013 COOL rules prevent me from gaining all of the information that I need when purchasing beef and pork from the grocery store. They also prevent me from purchasing the beef and pork products from the United States that I desire. The 2013 COOL

rules address these harms by preventing commingling and informing me of where the animals used to produce beef and pork products are born, raised, and slaughtered. Without the 2013 COOL rules, I will once again be harmed by having less information and fewer choices when purchasing meat at the grocery store.

Pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August 2013.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony Corbo", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and stylized.

Anthony Corbo