

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

October 5, 2010

The Honorable Tom Vilsack  
Secretary U.S. Department of Agriculture  
14th and Independence Ave, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary,

We write today regarding the current rule proposed by USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) dealing with livestock marketing. We certainly agree that America's livestock producers need efficient, competitive markets to maintain a strong vibrant industry. We also agree that the Packers and Stockyards Act should be strictly and aggressively enforced. However, the proposed rule goes well beyond the intentions of the 2008 Farm Bill and this proposed rule lacks a sound and thorough economic analysis necessary to determine the need, logic or functionality if implemented.

It appears the proposed rule by the agency is a clear attempt to circumvent Congress. Upon close review this proposed rule, it contains many elements and almost exact wording that was discussed and eliminated by Congress when the Farm Bill was passed in 2008. It is our opinion that government should not take on the role of manipulating domestic supply, cost or prices. This proposed rule is a clear invasion of the government into the private marketplace.

It directly conflicts with eight different court decisions. It will grossly restrict individual livestock producers' freedom to market livestock in buyer and seller agreements that will, consequently, create a chaotic business environment in which the industry will be forced to operate. The proposed rule clearly establishes enormous opportunity for unnecessary frivolous lawsuits.

The rule offers numerous restrictions on who shall represent buyers and sellers in livestock transactions and ownership.

Once again, we embrace the idea of USDA enforcing Packers and Stockyards Act across all segments of the industry however this proposed rule goes well beyond that. The vagueness in the proposed rule will lead to destruction of a multitude of value-added marketing programs. It will eliminate the incentives progressive producers pursue in investing and developing efficient high quality protein demanded by consumers. It has the potential of setting the industry back 30 –40 years. It will destroy jobs and drive our food supply to other countries.

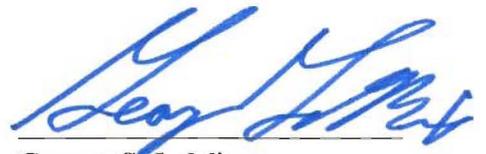
Mr. Secretary, we strongly encourage you to delay implementation of this proposed rule and conduct a thorough and complete economic analysis. It is clear that the repercussions of this proposed rule have not been properly analyzed or thought out and upon doing so we hope you will reconsider implementation of this rule in its entirety.

Your time and attention in this matter is appreciated and we eagerly await your response.

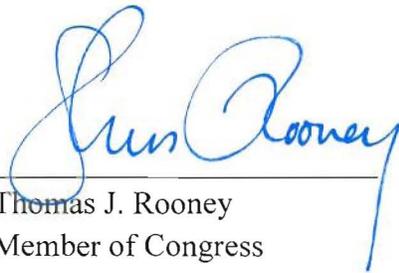
Sincerely,



Bill Nelson  
U.S. Senate



George S. LeMieux  
U.S. Senate



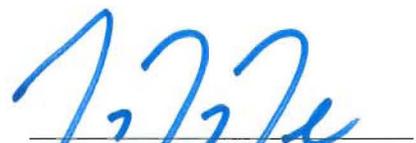
Thomas J. Rooney  
Member of Congress



Adam H. Putnam  
Member of Congress



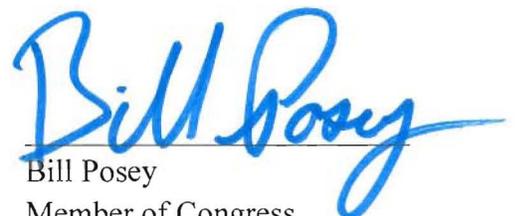
Allen Boyd  
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress



Jeff Miller  
Member of Congress



Bill Posey  
Member of Congress