



June 29, 2016

Dear Members of the U.S. Senate:

The North American Meat Institute (Meat Institute) is the leading voice for the meat and poultry industry. Formed from the 2015 merger of the American Meat Institute and North American Meat Association, the Meat Institute has a rich, century-long history and provides essential services to our membership of more than 384 of the nation's largest and smallest meat and poultry food manufacturers. Collectively, the Meat Institute's members produce the vast majority of U.S. beef, pork, lamb and poultry and the equipment, ingredients and services needed for the highest quality products.

The Meat Institute supports the biotechnology labeling agreement reached by Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts and Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow. It is critical that the Senate move quickly to pass the bipartisan proposal and avoid the economic chaos across the food industry that would result from a patchwork of state labeling laws.

The food and agriculture industry in the United States produces the most abundant, affordable and safe food supply in the world. According to a recent economic impact analysis, the meat and poultry industry is directly responsible for more than 525,000 jobs in production and packing, importing and direct distribution of meat and poultry products, with more than a million additional jobs linked to the wholesale and retail sale of meat and poultry products to the public. The larger food and agriculture industry represents more than 17 million jobs. Congress must ensure that conflicting and senseless state mandates do not disrupt our food supply, cost jobs and hurt consumers.

The Meat Institute thanks Chairman Roberts and Ranking Member Stabenow for their leadership on this issue, and encourages you to support the consideration and passage of this critical, bipartisan legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry L. Carpenter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

Barry L. Carpenter  
President and CEO  
North American Meat Institute