



June 9, 2009

The Honorable Collin Peterson
Chairman, House Agriculture Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Ranking Member, House Agriculture Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
1305 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Peterson and Ranking Member Lucas:

The American Meat Institute (AMI) is the nation's oldest and largest meat packing and processing industry trade association. Our members slaughter and process more than 90 percent of the nation's beef, pork, lamb, veal, and nearly 75 percent of the turkey produced in the United States. AMI has reviewed H.R. 2454, The American Clean Energy and Security Act, and has serious concerns about the bill.

Specifically, the bill's provisions related to carbon emissions could significantly increase energy, production and transportation costs for the meat and poultry industry. One need look back no further than to last year to see the impact that high input and energy costs had on the price and competitiveness of meat and poultry products in the market place and for consumers. In that regard, this cap-and-trade policy could place U.S. businesses at a competitive disadvantage with our international competitors, adversely affecting our ability to export. Such disadvantages in the global market would have the potential for severely impacting the U.S. animal protein sector from producer through processor.

Any legislation focused on cap and trade must not imperil the economic benefits provided by animal agriculture and the meat and poultry industry. The U.S. meat and poultry industry contributes more than \$832.4 billion, nearly 6 percent of GDP, to our nation's economy. Legislation passed by Congress must be economically feasible, not put U.S. businesses at a competitive disadvantage in the global market, and provide the United States Department of Agriculture with a strong leadership role.

AMI respectfully requests that an economic impact analysis be performed evaluating the effects of H.R. 2454 on the meat and poultry industry. Until the impact of this legislation on the meat and poultry industry is fully understood, AMI can not support the legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Patrick Boyle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

J. Patrick Boyle
President and CEO
American Meat Institute