



J. Patrick Boyle
President and CEO

July 28, 2010

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Room 200-A
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The decision to extend the comment period for the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's (GIPSA) proposed rule regarding the 2008 Farm Bill is appreciated, especially since the American Meat Institute's (AMI) original request for an extension was denied in a July letter from GIPSA Administrator J. Dudley Butler.

In conjunction with the announcement of a 90 day extension, the department released a "Misconception and Explanation" document regarding the GIPSA proposed rule – a somewhat unprecedented step in the midst of a notice and comment rulemaking procedure. In reality, that document does little to address the many concerns that have been created by the proposed rule.

In some "Misconceptions" the department fails to characterize accurately the nature of significant concerns raised by the proposal. Moreover, in a seeming attempt to mollify critics and minimize adverse impacts, some "USDA Explanations" actually contradict the plain language of the proposed rule.

For your information, I am attaching an analysis which recites verbatim from the document the department's "Misconceptions" and "Explanations" followed by a "Response" which details the errors and misrepresentations in the department's document. I hope that it proves helpful as the Department continues to seek comments and information through the USDA/DOJ Workshops and the proposed rule's extended comment period.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Patrick Boyle", written in a cursive style.

J. Patrick Boyle

Attachment

Cc: The Honorable Edward M. Avalos
The Honorable J. Dudley Butler

