

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1401

October 13, 2010

Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture
Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have recently been contacted by agricultural leaders that represent a majority of livestock producers in Indiana. I have attached a copy of their letter for your consideration. They are deeply concerned with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's (GIPSA) proposed rule dealing with livestock marketing.

I agree with these producers that federal regulations should not impede the development of products, in this case those derived from raising poultry and livestock that may command a higher market price due to desirable characteristics. I also agree that the development of private contracts that facilitate these transactions, Alternative Marketing Agreements (AMA), have played an important role in efficient poultry and livestock production practices that respond to rapidly changing consumer choices.

I believe that farmers of all sizes should have fair access to markets and support policies that increase demand for agricultural products. However, I am concerned that GIPSA's proposals may restrict innovation in agricultural markets resulting in the decreased competitiveness of U.S. agriculture production and diminished consumer choices, both of which seem counter to U.S. agricultural policy.

I am hopeful that you will carefully consider these concerns and that any final regulations will not impede market development.

Sincerely,



Richard G. Lugar
United States Senator

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