Sample Letter to the Editor: From consumers

To the Editor:

Farmers and ranchers are being forced to pay for their own demise and their ultimate extinction.

Every farmer is mandated by government to pay a fee (tax) every time they sell their products. These programs are called “checkoffs” and the funds they create were originally intended to help family farmers market their goods. Almost every agriculture commodity product has a marketing checkoff program and fee.

But today, there is a HUGE problem. Many of these programs have been hijacked by large industrial agriculture interests that use these funds to build their influence to push policy that supports industrial agriculture’s takeover of the food system, and they are used to ensure the market is rigged against the independent family farmer and rancher.

I’m writing because we need our state to audit and appropriate farmers’ beef checkoff tax funds to make sure they’re actually going to help *all* farmers, not just the special interests. We need the people down in the capital to listen to us for a change and restore accountability to a fundamentally corrupt tax system.

Sincerely,

NAME