DATE

NAME OF STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL

ADDRESS

Dear Attorney General NAME:

The STATE Beef Council is tasked with promotion of the cattle industry, and is funded by fifty cents out of the national one dollar per cattle beef checkoff program.

The United States Supreme Court has ruled in *Johanns v. Livestock* (2005) that beef checkoff funds are government speech subject to government oversight.

This letter is in response to the revelation that a former employee of the Oklahoma Beef Council had constructed a financial scheme going back nearly ten years and costing the farmer-taxpayer of Oklahoma roughly $2.6 million. An internal audit revealed the scheme goes back at least to 2009, and, in some years, represented 10% of the income of the Oklahoma Beef Council.

Federal pass-through funds for food stamps and other agricultural programs are important to our economy, but also subject to abuse. I respectfully request that you call on your state to subject the STATE Beef Council to a routine audit and oversight on behalf of the farmers of our great state to make sure that there isn’t abuse.

Farms are businesses, and we need to make sure that government intervention in the market is very limited and supports job creation, not out-of-control bureaucrats. I’m afraid that the fraud in Oklahoma is just the tip of the iceberg, but until an audit of the State Beef Council is conducted, nobody will know for sure where farmers’ taxes are going.

Sincerely,

NAME