DATE

NAME OF STATE AUDITOR

ADDRESS

Dear 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* (2004) that beef checkoff funds were government speech subject to government oversight.

I respectfully request that you audit the STATE Beef Council on behalf of the farmers of our great state.

Similar federal agriculture pass-through programs like food stamps are subject to routine audits, and these funds are also appropriated by the state to make sure there isn’t abuse. This beef program wants to get the benefits of government handouts without being subject to internal controls.

The call comes 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. However, neither the state Attorney General nor Auditor have investigated prior years, and nobody except for the sole employee under investigation has been fired or held accountable.

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 we do an audit, nobody will know for sure where farmers’ money is going.

Sincerely,

NAME