DATE

NAME OF STATE ELECTED OFFICIAL

ADDRESS

Dear NAME:

The STATE Beef Council promotes the cattle industry, and is funded by fifty cents out of the national $1/cattle beef checkoff program. They collect the mandated one dollar and keep fifty cents for themselves.

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. 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.

I respectfully request that the STATE Beef Council funds be audited on behalf of the farmers of our great state, and ensure that these funds are appropriated.

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 legislative control.

*Why aren’t these government funds appropriated, as required by law?*

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 our own state funds is completed, nobody will know for sure where farmers’ money is going.

I ask that you request an audit to be conducted and that these government-mandated taxes be properly appropriated.

Sincerely,

NAME