



OFFICE: P.O. Box 6486, Lincoln, NE 68506
Mike Weaver, President – 304-668-2526, mbweav1@gmail.com
Don Stull, Vice President – 785-764-8967, stull@ku.edu
Web: www.competitivemarkets.com

December 27, 2016

National Cattlemen's Beef Association
Attn: Tracy Brunner, President
9110 East Nichols Avenue, Suite 300
Centennial, CO 80112

National Pork Producers Council
Attn: John Dysart, President
10676 Justin Dr.
Urbandale, IA 50322

National Chicken Council
Attn: Mike Brown, President
1152 Fifteenth Street, NW, Suite 430
Washington, D.C. 20005-2622

Dear Mr. Brunner, Mr. Dysart, and Mr. Brown:

Since USDA's announcement and release of GIPSA's Farmer Fair Practices Rules, there has been much discourse on both sides of the issue. In spite of these rules or similar rules having been pending for over 6 years, we noted your organizations expressed statements of shock and dismay at the release of these rules, calling them midnight rules of the Obama Administration and stating Secretary Vilsack had thrown a grenade on his way out. You went so far as to declare these market safeguards "...an apparent attack on rural America for its role in helping elect Donald Trump as president."

First, many of our members and the farmers and ranchers we represent strongly support President-elect Donald Trump because we fully understand he wants to drain the swamp of the multi-national interests your organizations represent. We remain very hopeful that his administration will recognize the struggle of the American family farmer and rancher and will push to finalize these rules.

Further, it simply baffles us that the very organizations that successfully lobbied Congress to stop the rules through appropriation riders from 2011 through 2015 would not understand that when the blocking rider failed in the 2016 budget, the USDA would release rules clarifying market safeguards contained in the Packers and Stockyards Act.

From public statements, it seems obvious that each of your organizations strongly opposes these market safeguards and that the Organization for Competitive Markets strongly supports a transparent open market that the Farmer Fair Practices Rules will provide. Because there is such a difference of opinion as to the impact

of the rules to America's farmers and the American rural economy, we request you join our organization in a series of debates designed to allow both sides of the issue a platform to justify their positions to America's rural communities, family farmers and consumers. We would suggest that a representative from one of your organizations would debate a representative from our organization at a series of debates at multiple locations in the early part of January 2017. Because time is of the essence, we would entertain multiple sites on the same date. By January 6, 2017, please provide us with your answer as to whether you accept this invitation along with possible dates and locations. We are open to whatever format you would suggest.

We do understand these rules are meaningful and will have an impact on the relationship between America's family farmers and the multi-national packers and processors. We hope the debates will allow both sides the opportunity to express their positions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Weaver".

Mike Weaver
President
Organization for Competitive Markets