



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 the people in Washington to listen to us for a change and pass the bipartisan checkoff program reform bill sponsored by Senators Mike Lee and Cory Booker that would restore accountability to an unjust system. **MEMBER OF CONGRESS** should support this bill to support our family farmers. Farms are businesses, and small businesses need all the help they can get.

Sincerely,

NAME