



100 Wall St. 20th Floor
New York, NY 10005



701 East 22nd St
Lombard, IL 60148

Dear Member of Congress

The Co-Chairs of the Agriculture Committees of the Eastern Regional Conference (ERC) and the Midwestern Legislative Conference (MLC) of the Council of State Governments (CSG) are writing to express support for S. 1149 and S. 1150, which would allow the interstate sale of state-inspected meat when produced under inspection systems equivalent to the USDA. The members of the ERC and MLC organizations have unanimously passed resolutions in both 2006 and 2007 supporting the interstate sale of state inspected meat when produced under inspection systems equivalent to the USDA. The national membership of the Council of State Governments also supported this resolution in 2007.

Across the country, there are more than 2,000 state inspected meat processors, small, family-owned businesses, who are prevented from competing in the national marketplace. States have been paying to inspect these operations in systems recognized by the USDA as equivalent, but the product sale has been limited to in-state only. No other state-inspected food commodities are prohibited from being shipped across stateliness. Milk, dairy, fruit, fish, venison, pheasant, rabbit, quail and a host of other products produced in state inspected facilities are freely marketed across the country. Meat and poultry products from 38 foreign countries can be shipped and sold anywhere in the U.S. These same marketing options must be available to the American family farms producing meat and poultry.

Only beef, pork, lamb and goat are restricted from interstate shipment. Why are family run American small business not provided the same opportunities as those given to foreign countries? Why is meat processed in South America considered good enough for all families in the U.S., while meat processed in Indiana is okay for Indiana families but not good enough for Illinois families?

This discrimination against these meats unnecessarily penalizes both family farmers and consumers. This has a negative effect on local economies and unfairly reduces the choices of consumers that wish to buy local or support family farms. State inspected products compose just 10% of the red meat consumed in the United States, while imported meat products compose 20% of the red meat consumed in our country.

Consumers can be confident that meat poultry products processed in the United States under federal or state inspection are safe, wholesome and unadulterated. Each state inspection program is required to comply with and implement all federal food safety and consumer protection laws, regulations and requirements—more than 80 in total. There has never been a

documented food-borne illness from state-inspected meat and poultry products. USDA's assessment and audit data continues to show that state inspection programs are highly effective and provide consumers with a wholesome, unadulterated food product that is properly labeled and safe. Three USDA advisory committees have recommended that the band on interstate shipment of meat be removed.

American consumers deserve greater access to safe, nutritious products from state-inspected meat and poultry processors. And American livestock producers deserve more entrepreneurial marketing opportunities. We would appreciate your review of the attached resolutions and support for S1149 and S1150.

Sincerely,



Past Chair Sen. Sarah Kittell (VT) Co-Chair Rep. Jay Phinizy, NH Co-Chair Rep. George Carey, DE
Northeast States Association for Agriculture Stewardship of the Eastern Regional Conference of CSG.



Representative Al Junke, Minnesota

Representative Rich Myers, Illinois

Co-Chairs Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee of Midwestern Legislative Conference of CSG



100 Wall St. 20th Floor
New York, NY 10005



701 East 22nd St
Lombard, IL 60148

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
United States Senate
Russell Senate Office Building
SR-416
Washington, DC 20510-1007
Fax: (202) 224-4720

Dear Senator Chambliss:

The Co-Chairs of the Agriculture Committees of the Eastern Regional Conference (ERC) and the Midwestern Legislative Conference (MLC) of the Council of State Governments (CSG) are writing to express support for S. 1149 and S. 1150, which would allow the interstate sale of state-inspected meat when produced under inspection systems equivalent to the USDA. The members of the ERC and MLC organizations have unanimously passed resolutions in both 2006 and 2007 supporting the interstate sale of state inspected meat when produced under inspection systems equivalent to the USDA. The national membership of the Council of State Governments also supported this resolution in 2007.

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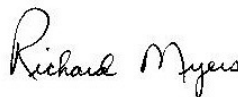
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Representative Rich Myers, Illinois

Co-Chairs Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee of Midwestern Legislative Conference of CSG



100 Wall St. 20th Floor
New York, NY 10005



701 East 22nd St
Lombard, IL 60148

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
United States Senate
Russell Senate Office Building
SR-433
Washington, DC 20510
Fax: (202)224-3479

Dear Senator Leahy:

The Co-Chairs of the Agriculture Committees of the Eastern Regional Conference (ERC) and the Midwestern Legislative Conference (MLC) of the Council of State Governments (CSG) are writing to express support for S. 1149 and S. 1150, which would allow the interstate sale of state-inspected meat when produced under inspection systems equivalent to the USDA. The members of the ERC and MLC organizations have unanimously passed resolutions in both 2006 and 2007 supporting the interstate sale of state inspected meat when produced under inspection systems equivalent to the USDA. The national membership of the Council of State Governments also supported this resolution in 2007.

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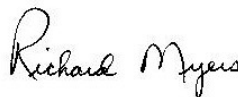
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Representative Rich Myers, Illinois

Co-Chairs Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee of Midwestern Legislative Conference of CSG



100 Wall St. 20th Floor
New York, NY 10005



701 East 22nd St
Lombard, IL 60148

The Honorable Richard Lugar
United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Building
SH-306
Washington, DC 20510
Fax: (202)228-0360

Dear Senator Lugar:

The Co-Chairs of the Agriculture Committees of the Eastern Regional Conference (ERC) and the Midwestern Legislative Conference (MLC) of the Council of State Governments (CSG) are writing to express support for S. 1149 and S. 1150, which would allow the interstate sale of state-inspected meat when produced under inspection systems equivalent to the USDA. The members of the ERC and MLC organizations have unanimously passed resolutions in both 2006 and 2007 supporting the interstate sale of state inspected meat when produced under inspection systems equivalent to the USDA. The national membership of the Council of State Governments also supported this resolution in 2007.

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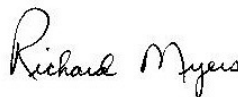
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Representative Rich Myers, Illinois

Co-Chairs Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee of Midwestern Legislative Conference of CSG



100 Wall St. 20th Floor
New York, NY 10005



701 East 22nd St
Lombard, IL 60148

The Honorable Kent Conrad
United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Building
SH-530
Washington, DC 20510
Fax: (202)224-7776

Dear Senator Conrad:

The Co-Chairs of the Agriculture Committees of the Eastern Regional Conference (ERC) and the Midwestern Legislative Conference (MLC) of the Council of State Governments (CSG) are writing to express support for S. 1149 and S. 1150, which would allow the interstate sale of state-inspected meat when produced under inspection systems equivalent to the USDA. The members of the ERC and MLC organizations have unanimously passed resolutions in both 2006 and 2007 supporting the interstate sale of state inspected meat when produced under inspection systems equivalent to the USDA. The national membership of the Council of State Governments also supported this resolution in 2007.

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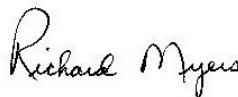
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Representative Rich Myers, Illinois

Co-Chairs Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee of Midwestern Legislative Conference of CSG



100 Wall St. 20th Floor
New York, NY 10005



701 East 22nd St
Lombard, IL 60148

The Honorable Thad Cochran
United States Senate
Dirksen Senate Office Building
SD-113
Washington, DC 20510-2402
Fax: (202) 224-9450

Dear Senator Cochran:

The Co-Chairs of the Agriculture Committees of the Eastern Regional Conference (ERC) and the Midwestern Legislative Conference (MLC) of the Council of State Governments (CSG) are writing to express support for S. 1149 and S. 1150, which would allow the interstate sale of state-inspected meat when produced under inspection systems equivalent to the USDA. The members of the ERC and MLC organizations have unanimously passed resolutions in both 2006 and 2007 supporting the interstate sale of state inspected meat when produced under inspection systems equivalent to the USDA. The national membership of the Council of State Governments also supported this resolution in 2007.

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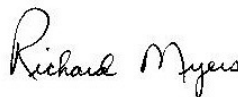
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Representative Rich Myers, Illinois

Co-Chairs Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee of Midwestern Legislative Conference of CSG



100 Wall St. 20th Floor
New York, NY 10005



701 East 22nd St
Lombard, IL 60148

The Honorable Max Baucus
United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Building
SH-511
Washington, DC 20510-2602
Fax: (202) 224-0515

Dear Senator Baucus:

The Co-Chairs of the Agriculture Committees of the Eastern Regional Conference (ERC) and the Midwestern Legislative Conference (MLC) of the Council of State Governments (CSG) are writing to express support for S. 1149 and S. 1150, which would allow the interstate sale of state-inspected meat when produced under inspection systems equivalent to the USDA. The members of the ERC and MLC organizations have unanimously passed resolutions in both 2006 and 2007 supporting the interstate sale of state inspected meat when produced under inspection systems equivalent to the USDA. The national membership of the Council of State Governments also supported this resolution in 2007.

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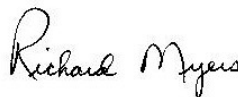
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100 Wall St. 20th Floor
New York, NY 10005



701 East 22nd St
Lombard, IL 60148

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Russell Senate Office Building
SR-361-A
Washington, DC 20510
Fax: (202)224-2499

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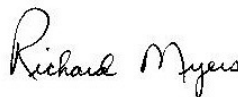
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100 Wall St. 20th Floor
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701 East 22nd St
Lombard, IL 60148

The Honorable Blanche Lincoln
United States Senate
Dirksen Senate Office Building
SD-355
Washington, DC 20510
Fax: (202)228-1371

Dear Senator Lincoln:

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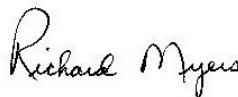
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701 East 22nd St
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The Honorable Pat Roberts
United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Building
SH-109
Washington, DC 20510
Fax: (202)224-3514

Dear Senator Roberts:

The Co-Chairs of the Agriculture Committees of the Eastern Regional Conference (ERC) and the Midwestern Legislative Conference (MLC) of the Council of State Governments (CSG) are writing to express support for S. 1149 and S. 1150, which would allow the interstate sale of state-inspected meat when produced under inspection systems equivalent to the USDA. The members of the ERC and MLC organizations have unanimously passed resolutions in both 2006 and 2007 supporting the interstate sale of state inspected meat when produced under inspection systems equivalent to the USDA. The national membership of the Council of State Governments also supported this resolution in 2007.

Across the country, there are more than 2,000 state inspected meat processors, small, family-owned businesses, who are prevented from competing in the national marketplace. States have been paying to inspect these operations in systems recognized by the USDA as equivalent, but the product sale has been limited to in-state only. No other state-inspected food commodities are prohibited from being shipped across stateliness. Milk, dairy, fruit, fish, venison, pheasant, rabbit, quail and a host of other products produced in state inspected facilities are freely marketed across the country. Meat and poultry products from 38 foreign countries can be shipped and sold anywhere in the U.S. These same marketing options must be available to the American family farms producing meat and poultry.

Only beef, pork, lamb and goat are restricted from interstate shipment. Why are family run American small business not provided the same opportunities as those given to foreign countries? Why is meat processed in South America considered good enough for all families in the U.S., while meat processed in Indiana is okay for Indiana families but not good enough for Illinois families?

This discrimination against these meats unnecessarily penalizes both family farmers and consumers. This has a negative effect on local economies and unfairly reduces the choices of consumers that wish to buy local or support family farms. State inspected products compose

just 10% of the red meat consumed in the United States, while imported meat products compose 20% of the red meat consumed in our country.

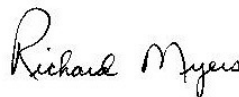
Consumers can be confident that meat poultry products processed in the United States under federal or state inspection are safe, wholesome and unadulterated. Each state inspection program is required to comply with and implement all federal food safety and consumer protection laws, regulations and requirements—more than 80 in total. There has never been a documented food-borne illness from state-inspected meat and poultry products. USDA's assessment and audit data continues to show that state inspection programs are highly effective and provide consumers with a wholesome, unadulterated food product that is properly labeled and safe. Three USDA advisory committees have recommended that the band on interstate shipment of meat be removed.

American consumers deserve greater access to safe, nutritious products from state-inspected meat and poultry processors. And American livestock producers deserve more entrepreneurial marketing opportunities. We would appreciate your review of the attached resolutions and support for S1149 and S1150.

Sincerely,



Past Chair Sen. Sarah Kittell (VT) Co-Chair Rep. Jay Phinizy, NH Co-Chair Rep. George Carey, DE
Northeast States Association for Agriculture Stewardship of the Eastern Regional Conference of CSG.



Representative Al Junke, Minnesota

Representative Rich Myers, Illinois

Co-Chairs Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee of Midwestern Legislative Conference of CSG

