

## **11/26/2003 Entry: "Attempt to Kill COOL Must be Stopped"**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 24, 2003

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Attempt to Kill COOL Must be Stopped

SD Stockgrowers Urge Producers to Contact Congress, Administration for Support

South Dakota Stockgrowers Association President Ken Knuppe is frustrated by the continued attempts to kill Country of Origin Labeling in closed meetings.

"Producers and consumers have proven time and again that they want Country of Origin Labeling. The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association is involved in Americans for Country of Origin Labeling, a group representing over 50 million members collectively, that has contacted Congress over and over again expressing our support for the bill," Knuppe said.

"And now our administration has reportedly teamed up with certain members of the Appropriations Conference Committee to kill Country of Origin Labeling by delaying implementation for at least two years on all products except wild fish," he continued. "This is a slap in the face to all of the cattle producers who've fought so hard for this legislation. Ranchers, farmers and consumers need to call the White House, their entire congressional delegation and the congressional leaders who are trying to

kill Country of Origin Labeling to and tell them how important the issue is to you and your family." Knuppe added, "If the committee truly believes

the bill should be delayed, why would they exclude wild fish from the rule?

It is clearly a political move, not an attempt to benefit producers or consumers."

The main line to the White House is 202-456-1111. Knuppe adds, "I plan to remind the White House that grassroots people voted President Bush into office, and we deserve to be recognized on this vital issue."

For the phone numbers to the Congressional Leaders' offices, contact the

South Dakota Stockgrowers Association at 605-342-0429 or [carrie.sdsga@midconetwork.com](mailto:carrie.sdsga@midconetwork.com).