

07/11/2003 Entry: "Need Support for Rehberg-Hooley Amendment"

-- R-CALF USA Member Alert (This is not a press release)

BACKGROUND: The full House is scheduled to vote on the House Appropriations Bill (H.R. 2673) on Monday July 14, 2003. This Bill contains language that strips funding for implementing the meat portions of COOL.

STATUS: The opposition has done a good job of confusing Congress about COOL. We must re-educate Congress, fast!

ACTION: Please call your U.S. House Member, even if you've called them before, and tell them you want them to support the Rehberg-Hooley Amendment, an amendment proposed by Denny Rehberg (R-MT) and Darlene Hooley (D-OR) to strike the Bonnilla language (recall the Bonnilla language strips funding for the beef provisions in COOL). Below are four reasons you can use to convince Congress to support COOL:

1. COOL is the only tool that allows U.S. producers to differentiate their product in the marketplace. We raise the best beef in the world under the best of conditions - but no one knows because we can't differentiate our products from others.
2. By not keeping COOL, we are risking our #1 and #3 export markets - Japan and Korea. Both countries have demanded that any beef exported to them be verified as born, raised, and slaughtered in the U.S. as of Sept. 1, 2003.
3. Opponents are trying to complicate COOL. The truth is that the Secretary of Agriculture can resolve all the perceived problems by writing common sense rules. Remember, not a single rule has yet been written to implement COOL.
4. This fight is all about a hand-full of corporate meat packers who want to continue deceiving the public into believing that the USDA grade stamp and inspection sticker means the meat is produced in the United States.

Deadline: Contact your House Member as quickly as possible in Washington, D.C. by calling the Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121 and asking for your Member of Congress by name.

Thanks for your dedication and keep up the great work! We'll be in touch.