

12/09/2003 Entry: "Update on COOL Status"

December 8, 2003

To: R-CALF USA Members and Affiliates

From: Bill Bullard, CEO, R-CALF USA

Re: Update on COOL Status

Status: Today the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Omnibus Appropriations Bill that contains the anti-COOL language (delays COOL implementation for all but farm raised and wild fish until 2006). The vote was 242 to 176. This means the Omnibus Appropriations Bill now goes to the U.S. Senate for a vote.

Our strength has always been in the Senate. Recall that the Senate passed the "Sense of the Senate Amendment" by a vote of 58 to 36 stating that the Senate does not support any delay in COOL implementation.

But, President Bush is putting pressure on Senators to vote for the whole Omnibus Appropriations Bill.

One of two things will happen tomorrow:

1) Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-TN) will ask for unanimous consent to pass the Omnibus Appropriations Bill. But, Senator Robert Byrd (D-WV) will object. Majority Leader Frist will then adjourn the Senate until January 20, 2004.

2) All of the above except Majority Leader Frist decides not to adjourn. Instead, he decides to file for "Cloture." Cloture is a vote that would limit Senate debate on the Omnibus Appropriations Bill and would prevent any Senator from filibustering.

a. If Cloture is filed, a period of 48 hours must lapse before the Senate can vote on Cloture, which requires a two-thirds vote.

b. If Cloture is filed tomorrow, we will send you a notice asking you to call the Senators who supported the "Sense of the Senate Amendment" to thank them for supporting COOL and to ask them to support COOL again by voting "NO" on Cloture. We will have 48 hours to encourage 41 Senators to vote "NO" on Cloture. If we succeed, the Senate will adjourn until January 20, 2004.

A delay until January 20 will help us defend COOL because the momentum to support COOL is growing fast. Here are some examples:

- 1) CNN News covered R-CALF USA on COOL last week.
- 2) Congress continues to be flooded with calls from grassroots producers who support COOL.
- 3) Two Presidential candidates (Dean and Gephardt) have issued national statements in support of COOL last week and this week.
- 4) The New Mexico Cattle Growers Association voted this weekend to discontinue their affiliation with NCBA.

Our strategy remains to elevate COOL to a national election issue and to demonstrate that our opposition does not represent grassroots cattle producers. The above mentioned examples do just that.

Remember: It's not over until we win!

We'll be in touch tomorrow. Thanks for your extraordinary efforts on behalf of your U.S. live cattle industry!