December 9, 2021

Dear Members of the United States Senate:

We, the hundreds of undersigned organizations, businesses, and individuals, urge you to cosponsor and immediately pass the American Beef Labeling Act of 2021 (S.2716), which reinstates mandatory country-of-origin labeling (M-COOL) for beef.

The American Beef Labeling Act (S.2716) addresses World Trade Organization (WTO) concerns regarding M-COOL by directing the United States Trade Representative and Secretary of Agriculture to determine the means of implementing M-COOL for beef in a manner compliant with WTO rules. If such means are not implemented within 12 months following enactment, beef and ground beef will be reinstated in the M-COOL statute that currently covers numerous other food commodities, 7 U.S.C. 1638 et seq.

This legislation would promote a safe and affordable supply of wholesome beef for America's consumers; a fairer, more competitive market for America's cattle farmers and ranchers; and quality family-sustaining jobs for meat processing workers. Following Congress' 2015 repeal of M-COOL for beef, retail beef prices have become disconnected from underlying cattle prices, with retail beef prices and cattle prices moving in opposite directions. For several years now, consumers have been paying record prices for beef at the grocery store while cattle producers continue receiving decade-old, depressed prices for their cattle. This disconnect raises concerns that a consolidated and uncompetitive beef packing industry is exploiting consumers, workers, and ranchers alike.

M-COOL for beef will help to subject beef packers' control over the beef supply chain to competitive market forces. M-COOL will empower consumers to exercise choice in the grocery store by informing them of whether they are purchasing domestic beef or beef that is wholly or partially imported. By acting upon this information, consumers' origin-related buying preferences will translate into demand signals for beef produced in a particular country. Market research indicates that America's consumers are willing to pay more for beef harvested from cattle exclusively born and raised in the United States, and S.2716 will enable the domestic cattle and beef supply chains to be more responsive to changes in consumer demand.

M-COOL is good for meat processing workers and will stem the loss of good-paying jobs in the beef sector. Shrinking U.S. cattle harvests continue to eliminate middle class jobs within the U.S. beef sector. Without M-COOL, thousands of workers in the U.S. food industry will suffer from job losses, and a lowering of labor standards.

Many consumer goods in America as well as other food commodities like chicken, lamb, fish, fruits and vegetables, ginseng, peanuts, and other nuts have long been required to be labeled as to their origin, and domestic and foreign producers and manufacturers alike have long been

empowered to win the consumers' favor for those goods that they produce and manufacture in their respective country. There is no reason to exclude beef from origin labeling requirements, and the current rules, which allow meatpackers to label as "Product of the USA" beef that is imported and repackaged at a U.S. processing facility, are indefensible. American consumers deserve the right to choose, American cattle farmers and ranchers deserve the right to compete for the consumers' favor in their domestic market, and meat processing workers deserve quality jobs.

Please become a co-sponsor of the American Beef Labeling Act of 2021 (S.2716) and please encourage its enactment as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

(See Signatories Next 4 Pages)

**Organizational Signers** 

A Greener World

American Agriculture Movement American Grassfed Association Arkansas Retired Military Association

Be the Change Coalition

Blackfeet Nation Stock Growers Association

Border Bumpers 4-H Club Brouphy Road District

Buckeye Quality Beef Association Bull Mountain Land Alliance

Campaign for Contract Agriculture Reform

Cattle Producers of Louisiana Center for Food Safety

Central Montana Resource Council Central School Vol. Fire Dept. Coalition for a Prosperous America Coalition to Govern America

Colorado Independent CattleGrowers Association

Colorado Land Water & Food All Colorado Land, Water & Food Alliance Consumer Federation of America

Consumer Reports

Consumers for fair pricing

Cuero Young Farmers Association

Dakota Resource Council Dakota Rural Action Dickey County

Family Farm Defenders

Farm Aid

Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance Farm to Consumer Legal Defense Fund

Food & Water Watch

Food Animal Concerns Trust

Government Accountability Project Food Integrity Campaign

Gregory County Farmers Union Gregory County Prairie Patriots

Gregory Horizons Community Development Corporation

Harney County Stockgrowers Health Care Without Harm Hometown Credit Union IBEW Local Union 246 Illinois Stewardship Alliance

Independent Beef Assoc of North Dakota

Independent cattlemen of Missouri
Independent Cattlemen of Nebraska
Independent Cattlemen of Nebraska
Independent Cattlemen of Wyoming
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement

Iowa Livestock Auction Markets Association

Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future

Kansas Cattlemen's Association

Label it now Lovell Township

MACNY - The Manufacturers Association of CNY

Made in America Again Action, Inc.

Michigan Farmers Union

Mid Michigan Livestock Network Missouri Rural Crisis Center Montana Cattlemen's Association National Family Farm Coalition National Farmers Organization

National Farmers Union

National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association

National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition Nebraska Women Involved in Farm Economics

North Dakota Farmers Union

Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance

Northern Plains Resource Council

Oklahoma Independent Stockgrowers Association

Organization for Competitive Markets

Ozarks Citizens Alliance

Perkins County

Pleasant Valley township

Powder River Basin Resource Council

Public Citizen

Public Justice Food Project

Pueblo County Ranchers Association

R-CALF USA

Rocky Mountain Farmers Union Rosebud Protective Association

Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA (RAFI-USA)

Socially Responsible Agriculture Project

South Dakota Citizens for Liberty

SOUTH DAKOTA FARMERS UNION

South Dakota Livestock Marketers Association

South Dakota Stockgrowers Association Southern Colorado Livestock Association

True Texas Project PAC

United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW)

Upper Ohio Valley Building & Construction Trades Council

**USCA** 

Western Colorado Alliance

Western Organization of Resource Councils Women Involved in Farm Economics

## **Business and Farm/Ranch Signers**

1/2 Diamond Ranch

6D Cattle 7G Ranch 7G Ranch

Ag West Feeds Inc. Alapahabluff Livestock Alexander Farms Alme Farm And Ranch Almo C&H grazing

Anichini - Moore Ranch & Farm ARIZONA CUSTOM IRON

B 4 Cattle Bangma Farms Bar 13 Ranch Bayou Born BBQ

Big Loop Cattle Company Bowlin Cattle Company

Box Farms Braaten Ranch Brown Farm &Ranch

Burrell Farms

Buzzard Charolais, LLC

Cain cattle

Carter Cows LLC
Cathey Cattle Company

Cedar Cliff Farm
Chain Ranch Inc
Circle P Cattle
Clapper Farms
Coble Ranch Inc.
Cold Creek Ranch
Coney Island restaurant

Consumer's Federal Credit Union Cook Land and Company, LLC

Cornerstone Ranch
Covered-L Farm, LLC
Creighton Livestock Market

Cross S Ranch
D Lazy T Ranch
DAM Ammo Co
Damm Bros Inc
Dan Brown
Day Herefords
DeBord Ranch
Diamond J Cattle CO

Dillard Farms
Dinklage Inter

Dinklage Interprises
Dinklage Ranch

Diamond W Red Angus

Doll's Dairy Inc DrStewart Ranch DS Cattle LLC Dumback Farms Dunbar Creek Ranch

ECO Supplies and Services LLC Edney Family Cattle Operation

Engebretson farm Ernsting farm

Fancher Cattle company Farris Ranching Company Fazzi Agriculture Inc.

Feed Mix

Ferguson Farms Ferme, Ltd.

Flying U Ranch LLC Fontenot Beef FOX HOLE RANCH Gesinger Ranch

Gonsoulin Land and Cattle

Grand Homes Florida Realty and Management

Grassburger

Guggenmos River Ranch LTD

H2O TRUCKING,LLC

Hall Farms

Happiness Farms Inc Hardesty Farms

Harris Land and Cattle LLC

Hatcreek Beef Hawks Rest Ranch

Heart Of The Heart Ranch

Hennen Farm Hilyard Farm Holland Cattle Holste Tripleh Farm

Holton Meadows Cattle & Meats LLC

Hometown Credit Union Horst Mountain Properties

Hyde Farms J BAr C

J&L Cattle Co LLC
J&M Cattle Inc.
J.H.B. Cattle Co.
J4 Cattle Company

JADE Farms

Jaeger Land & Cattle LLC

JBJ Livestock Jeff Daugherty JF Ranch JH CATTLE

John Mehlhoff Ranch Jr. Solomon Farms JT Cattle Company Keaton Cattle Company

Kemna Farms KenMar Angus

Kenzy Backgrounding LLC

Kingdom Cattle KOMA Cattle Co Kulm Family Ranch Landon Vetter

Lawinger Livestock Company

Lazy A Ranch Lazy D Farms Lazy J Feeders Lazy JM Ranch

lifetime product industries

Lindberg Ranch

LOWNDES FARM SUPPLY INC.

Lytle Ranches M Chacon Cattle Co Madsen Cattle Company

Mae Properties Makelky Ranch Mark kraft

Martin Grain Farms Red Angus Ranch

Mashek Food Center

Mastel Ranch MasterLube

Matt & Jenny Eggert Matthews Farms MC Ranch

McCormick Cattle Company McFarland Livestock Co. Inc.

Miles Ranch
MiPonderosa,LLC
Mitchell Equipment
Mitchell Ranch
ML Cattle
ML Cattle

Montana Branded Inc.

MVM

Naneum Farms nelson ranch

MoJo Farms

Nickel Heritage Farm
Nielson Ranch Co
NorCal Kangen
Odell Ranching
OH-KY ADC of BAC
Omega cattle and curs
One Wing Ranch

Ovadia Heart Health LLC Panse Greenhouses

Parsons Ranch

Pasa Chiropractic Center Pelster family ranch Perham Stockyards, Inc Platte Livestock Market

PPM

Presho Livestock ProjektFlow, LLC Queen Farm Queen of Clubs Raggio Cattle Reed farms Reedsridge Beef

Revere Copper Products, Inc.

RK Cattle Company RKCattle Company Roan Creek Ranch Robie Ranch Rockin R Hats Rolling W Farm

Rosebud Farmers Union Cooperative

Round Barn Farm
Rugby Livestock LLC
Rusk Ranches LTD
San Lucas Ranch
Sanders Ranch
Schaeffer Beef, LLC
Sebago Sonography, Inc.
Seed of Hope Farm

Sellin Farms

Sheridan Animal Hospital Signal Bluff Ranch Snappy leather works South Texas Weddings

Splendor Farm SSJ Ranch Steel Ranch Stephens Ranch Stickles Angus Straka Ranch Stroh Cattle Sullivan cattle Sunnyside Ranch

Sweet Water Farms LLC Tavern Creek Gelbvieh, LLC

Tenn Texas LLC That Ain't Write Tilton Farms Tinant Ranch Todd Ranch

Tornes cattle company

Tower Hills Ranch

Travis and Teresa Neugebauer

Triangle 7 Cattle Co. Triple O Cattle Co.

Trish Leone co owner Peak View Ranch

Twombly Cattle Co. Van Horn Ranch Van Roekel cattle co Vess Excavating, Ltd. Victorian Summit Vineyards

W. A. BLACKWELL RANCHES, LLC

Western Sky Patio Covers Inc.

Williams Cattle

Work Horse Farm Rescue and Exotics

Wright Bros

ZX land and Cattle

## **Individual Signers**

Alison Montgomery Arthur Barry Hess **Bobbie Mitchell** Brandon M Jones Brenda Book C. V. Mc Daniel Carol Hendrickson Carol Young **Cathy Haines** 

Chad Schlaepfer Chad Taylor

Chesna and Joel Smith

Cindy Beard Craig Vernieu David Henderson Dawn Winkler

Del & Holly Reimers Diane Chavez **Gary Williams** 

George Regas Gerald W. Sradler Jake Gordanier Jamie Fine

JANE ANN STEEL KELLY

Janelle Nelson **JASON BIVENS** Jay J Sustik Jay Larson

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Marty Neugebauer

Mary D'Arco Michael Green Michelle Engel Nicholas E Woyak

Patrick Long

Phil Mueller Rex Harold Eagan Robert J Sanders Robert Kelsey Roger Collier Ron Papa Scott Kinnamon Shawn Boutwell Sue Thomas Susan Wacker Susie Thomas **Terry Bruner** Tom Kilgore Troy Dillard Twila A. Taylor

Wade Fox Wanda Furrow Wayne Rundall Wendelyn Geiger Wes Sibert

Vicki Bryant