

October 23, 2007

The Honorable Tom Harkin
United States Senate
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
United States Senate
416 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Chambliss:

We, the undersigned organizations, write to express our support for the new program included in the Chairman's mark that permits the interstate shipment of meat inspected by federal and state agencies for certain small establishments.

This compromise is a result of an extensive and inclusive negotiation with all parties contributing to its success. The resulting compromise of these negotiations is good public policy that benefits both consumers and agricultural producers.

We will support this compromise language and oppose all efforts to amend its intent, throughout all consideration of the 2007 Farm Bill. The only exception to this statement would come about as a result of an agreement among all of the signatories on this letter to support a needed change unforeseen at this time.

Thank you again for your assistance.

Sincerely,

National Farmers Union
Consumer Federation of America
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
American Federation of Government Employees
Food & Water Watch
Center for Science in the Public Interest
National Consumers League
Center for Foodborne Illness Research and Prevention
Government Accountability Project
United Food and Commercial Workers