

## MEMORANDUM

Celinda C. Lake  
President

**To:** Interested Parties

**From:** Celinda Lake, Joshua Ulibarri, and Christopher Panetta

**Re:** Americans Prefer Government Inspections for Meat and Poultry Processing Plants

**Date:** March 21, 2007

Alysia R. Snell  
Partner

***Americans want the government – NOT the meat industry – to conduct inspections of meat processing plants.***

Michael J. Perry  
Partner

**A Lake Research Partners' national survey<sup>1</sup> shows an overwhelming majority of voters (81 percent) want the government to be in charge of inspecting meat processing plants despite the meat industry's arguments that self-inspections will save taxpayers money. Very few Americans (12 percent) feel the meat-industry should be allowed to self-inspect.<sup>2</sup>**

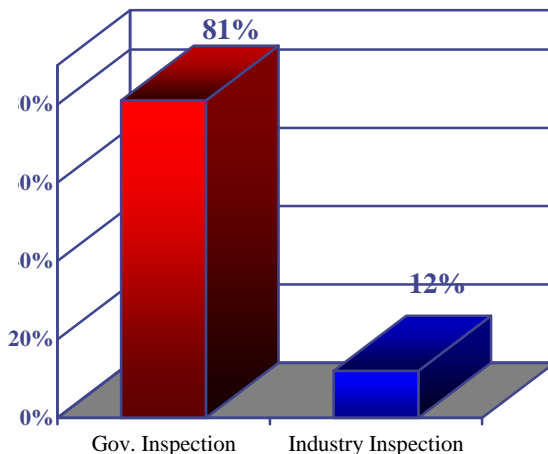
David Mermin  
Partner

Robert G. Meadow, Ph.D.  
Partner

Daniel R. Gotoff  
Partner

Joshua E. Ulibarri  
Vice President

Rick Johnson  
Vice President



Support for government inspections is consistent across demographic groups including men (79% favor government inspections) and women (83%), whites (81%), African Americans (81%), and Latinos (83%). **In fact, support for government inspections does not fall below 73% across demographic groups.** Since 2002, these attitudes have gone unchanged, as 80% then preferred government inspections and only 13% preferred that the meat-industry be allowed to conduct inspections.

For more information, please contact Patty Lovera in Food & Water Watch's Washington, DC, office (202-797-6550) or Joshua Ulibarri in LRP's Washington, DC, office (202-776-9066).

<sup>1</sup> **Methodology:** Lake Research Partners designed this telephone survey and it was administered by CARAVAN® Opinion Research Corporation. Food & Water Watch commissioned the questions. The survey was conducted among a national probability sample of 1,000 adults comprised of 484 men and 516 women, 18 years of age and older, living in private households in the continental United States. Interviewing was conducted February 28-March 5, 2007. The data has a margin of error of +/- 3.1 percentage points.

<sup>2</sup> **Question Wording:** Currently, there are daily government inspections of meat and poultry processing plants. Here is what some people are saying about this issue: Some people believe that the inspection of meat-processing plants should still be done by government inspectors. They say the industry needs independent government inspectors to keep the public safe from E. coli, salmonella, and other life threatening diseases./Other people believe that the inspection of meat-processing plants should be done by the meat industry. They say with modern improvements in testing, the industry is capable of inspecting the meat themselves and reporting the results to the government, thus saving taxpayer money. Which is closer to your view?