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Conrad, MT 59425

info@montanabison.org

March 20, 2017

Ms. Mary Porretta & Mr. Matthew Michael
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Food and Safety Inspection Service
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-3700

Sent via email to:

Ms. Mary Porretta – Mary.Porretta@fsis.usda.gov

Mr. Matthew Michael – Matthew.Michael@fsis.usda.gov

RE: Petition #18-01

Dear Ms. Porretta and Mr. Michael,

We are writing in support of petition #18-01 to the U.S. Department of Agriculture regarding the definition of meat. Our membership is comprised of livestock producers raising bison in Montana and throughout the region. We write to request that the definition of “beef” and “meat” be limited to products only derived from livestock that has been raised and slaughtered in the traditional manner. We are proud of the product we raise and have a passion for producing the highest quality meat we can for the consumer. It is also imperative that the consumer clearly understand the difference in the product they are purchasing as it pertains to meat raised and produced traditionally, and any alternatives. Therefore it is imperative that the “meat” we raise is differentiated and labeled differently from any laboratory derived substitute or alternative for the sale of these two products.

You can reach our entire membership, or the board of directors by visiting our website at montanabison.org.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact us.

Aaron Paulson - President

We promote the wise stewardship and management of bison in Montana.

Website: <http://www.montanabison.org/>