



April 10, 2018

Ms. Carmen Rottenberg
Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety
United States Department of Agriculture
Mr. Paul Kiecker
Acting Administrator
Food Safety and Inspection Service
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 331-E Whitten Building
Washington, D.C. 20250-3700

Re: Petition 18-01 -- Request for Extension Regarding United States Cattlemen's Association Petition for the Imposition of Beef and Meat Labeling Requirements: To Exclude Products not Derived Directly from Animals Raised and Slaughtered from the Definition of "Beef" and "Meat."

Dear Under Secretary Rottenberg and Administrator Kiecker:

The North American Meat Institute (NAMI or Meat Institute) is the leading voice for the meat and poultry industry. The Meat Institute has a rich, century-long history and provides essential member services including legislative, regulatory, scientific, international, and public affairs representation. Together, the Meat Institute's members produce the vast majority of U.S. beef, pork, lamb, and poultry, in addition to the equipment, ingredients, and services needed to produce the safest and highest quality products.

The regulation of alternative protein products, both plant-based and lab cultured, animal based, is a topic of great interest among Meat Institute members and the packer and processor community generally. These new, emerging products must be regulated appropriately to ensure they are not only wholesome and safe for consumption, but also labeled and marketed in a manner that ensures a level playing field in marketplace.

Petition 18-01
April 10, 2018
Page 2 of 2

The above-referenced petition, which among other things asks the Food Safety and Inspection Service to define a term already defined by regulation, was filed February 9, 2018.¹ NAMI's Board of Directors will meet on April 19, 2018, and this petition and plethora of issues it raises will be a focal point of the Board's discussion. Given the importance not only to the meat industry but also to the consuming public of ensuring both types of alternative protein products are properly regulated, the Meat Institute requests the comment period be extended to allow its Board of Directors an opportunity to consider carefully the array of important issues presented to best enable NAMI to provide comprehensive comments to the agency.

Thank you for considering this request. If you have questions or would like to discuss the request or anything else regarding this matter, please contact me at 202-587-4229 or mdopp@meatinstitute.org.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Dopp', with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Mark Dopp
Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs
and Scientific Affairs, and General Counsel

cc: Barry Carpenter
Pete Thomson
Janet Riley

¹ See 9 CFR 301.2.