



April 2, 2018

Mr. Matthew Michael
Director, Issuances Staff
Office of Policy and Program Development
U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service
1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-3700

RE: FSIS Petition Number 18-01

Dear Mr. Michael:

The North Dakota Farm Bureau represents 27,000 families throughout our state and we appreciate the opportunity to comment on this issue. From the perspective of our members, meat is what meat has always been: animal products, produced by farmers and ranchers and it IS NOT a protein replacement product created in a laboratory and replicated in a factory.

Our members raise and produce cattle, hogs, sheep, poultry and a host of other livestock animals which are the naturally produced, humanely raised protein source American and worldwide consumers demand, and they also raise the grain and other foodstuffs which our livestock consumes. We do not believe it is in the best interest of consumers to mislead them through a new definition by FSIS. The government cannot create meat through changing the dictionary – Meat is a traditional term used to encompass animal protein tissues and products harvested and processed for the human diet. Changing labeling and advertising standards to ‘make’ lab grown, plant based protein something which it isn’t would be a huge disservice to both consumers and meat producers.

We want FSIS to prohibit products derived from alternative sources with non-animal components from being labeled as “meat”; Beef, Pork Poultry or any other traditional meat. Your agency should include traditional science based definitions of meat in your Food Standards and Labeling Policy Book.

NDFB appreciates the opportunity to share our thoughts and concerns.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter F. Hanebutt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

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