



New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association

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March 8, 2018

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

Dear Ms. Porretta & Mr. Michael:

I am pleased to submit this letter to confirm the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association (NMCGA), with members in all 33 of the state's counties as well as 19 other states, provides its complete support for the petition number 18-01.

We support the petitions request that The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) limit the definition of "beef" to products from cattle born, raised, and harvested in the traditional manner. We also support the request to exclude products derived from alternative sources from being labeled as "beef", as well as the definition of "meat" being limited to the tissue or flesh of animals that have been harvested in the traditional manner and not include alternative sources, such as synthetic product from plants, insects, or non-animal components and any product from in the lab from animal cells.

After careful review and consideration of the petition, NMCGA fully supports, without reservation, the proposed petition. If you have any questions or would like to discuss my endorsement, please contact me by e-mail at nmcga@nmagriculture.org or by phone at 505-247-0584.

Sincerely,

Tom Sidwell
President

TOM SIDWELL, President, Quay; **RANDELL MAJOR**, President-Elect, Magdalena; **JACK CHATFIELD**, Vice-President At Large, Mosquero; **TY BAYS**, SW Vice-President, Silver City; **DUSTIN JOHNSON**, NW Vice-President, Farmington; **JEFF BILBERRY**, SE Vice-President, Elida; **BLAIR CLAVEL**, NE Vice-President, Roy; **SHACEY SULLIVAN**, Secretary-Treasurer, Bosque Farms; **PAT BOONE**, Past-President, Elida; **CAREN COWAN**, Executive Director, Albuquerque