

Dear Ms. Snyder,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendment to the Beef Promotion and Research Order. As a member of the Wyoming Beef Council, I would like to express my dismay at the passage of this exemption. Our program is doing a wonderful job of increasing the demand for all beef products. Producers here take great pride in providing an outstanding product, and many of these producers do so with the use of little or no non-organic supplements. My concern is that we all are working to make our products more marketable, yet we who do not choose to certify as organic producers will pay the bill to market beef for everyone.

I am also deeply concerned about the administration and implementation of this program. There should be one governing body controlling certification and exemption requirements. The Cattlemen's Beef Board would seem a perfect fit as they already keep data on past and current assessments and could therefore more easily spot forgeries and other abuses.

Finally, I firmly believe that the responsibility for proper documentation and proof of certification of organic beef should rest solely on the organic producer. They should be allowed no extra perks if they are unwilling to help the rest of us market our product.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment. |

Respectfully,

Denise R. Baars
Producer of Range Cattle
Wyoming Beef Council

received
5-26-04