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31 March 2003

Chief, Standardization Branch  
Livestock and Seed Program  
American Marketing Service  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Room 2603-S, Stop 0254  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250-0254  
[marketingclaim@usda.gov](mailto:marketingclaim@usda.gov)

Re: Docket Number LS-02-02, Concerning Meat Marketing Claims

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to express my concerns about proposed meat marketing labeling claims and standards.

I am concerned that these claims could undermine the integrity of the labels they seek to define, mislead consumers, and have a devastating affect on small and mid-sized farmers who are pioneers of these marketing claims.

I am also concerned that USDA did not take the time to get input from family farmer, consumer, humane, and environmental groups in drafting the proposed standards, but instead conferred primarily with large-scale, industrial agricultural interests.

I urge you to withdraw proposed meat marketing claims and standards and start over again. I urge you to consult closely with family farm, consumer, humane, and environmental organizations before issuing a final proposal.

I care deeply about being able to purchase grass-fed, free-range, and antibiotic free meat and want proposed USDA claims to meet my expectations.

Sincerely,

Edward Smith