OES-Director

From: anthony mazzone [tm6821@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2004 7:31 PM
To: Veneman, Ann
Subject: country of origin labeling

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February 5, 2004

Secretary Ann Veneman
1400 Independence Ave SW
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Secretary Veneman:

I understand the omnibus spending bill contains provisions to delay mandatory country-of-origin labeling for two years. This would essentially kill this beneficial law, which is unacceptable.

As a consumer, I prefer to know where the food I purchase is grown and processed. We know where our clothes and other manufactured goods come from, but not what we put into our bodies.

Our nation's farmers and ranchers produce the best commodities in the world, and they should be able to differentiate their products from those of countries that may have disease or food safety concerns. Besides, America's consumers and trading partners are concerned about the origin of our meat, especially after the recent hepatitis A outbreak in Mexican green onions and the "mad cow" incident in Washington state in an animal that has been traced back to Canada.

I want and deserve to know where the food I buy is grown, raised and produced!

Sincerely,

anthony r. mazzone

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AMS