Mark and Rose Bebo
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Lingle, Wy 82223
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January 26, 2003

Dear Sir,

I would like to take the opportunity to comment on the "Country of Origin" issue. The costs that have been bandied about to implement this program are completely ridiculous! The people who came up with those outrageous numbers represent very large meat packing monopolies who are against labeling.

The labeling should be done by retailers and packers. The paperwork associated with this labeling should be done by the people importing the different products covered by this program. To suggest that Producers in this Country need to do a mountain of paperwork from the time the calf hits the ground until it is hung on the rail, is beyond belief. In fact, it is a sham designed to stop the program completely. The logical way for this paperwork to be done, is to require all imported products be accompanied by the place of origin documentation. Products that are raised and produced in this country would be automatically labeled "Made in the USA" by both the wholesaler and the retailer.

This whole issue of not labeling, is nothing more than large wholesalers and retailers (monopolies), being able to continue to import products, identified by this program, without the consumers knowing.

As I sit writing these comments, I look at the clothing I am wearing and note that my shoes, underwear, socks, shirt and pants are all labeled with a tag identifying where they were made. I believe that American Consumers would like to know where products they are putting <u>into</u> their bodies are coming from, more than what they are putting <u>on</u> their bodies.

I am a small Farmer/Feeder in Wyoming. This operation is family owned and operated. Our children work and live on the farm along with their children, our grandchildren. If the Agri-business continues down this path of vertical and horizontal integration, also known as monopolies, farming and feeding will drastically change in this Country. I urge you to use common sense in this "Country of Origin" Labeling and make it the Law of the Land, and not another burden on Producers in the USA.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Bebo
Lingle, Wyoming