



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES
State Agriculture Councils

November 17, 2014

Office of the United States Trade Representative
Attn: Ambassador Michael Froman
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Froman:

We, the undersigned members of the State Agriculture Councils of The Humane Society of the United States, urge you to appeal the World Trade Organization's (WTO) recent decision against the U.S. Country-of-Origin Labeling (COOL) rule, which tells consumers the national origin of meat, seafood and other agricultural products for sale.

The country-of-origin labeling statute and regulations protect independent and family farmers by assuring their products will be clearly labeled. Trans-national livestock industry interests want to obscure this information in order to maximize their unfettered access to the U.S. food market. They have continued to attack COOL through the WTO and the U.S. judicial system.

COOL provides consumers with important market information. It helps consumers who prefer food from U.S. family farmers and ranchers, rather than industrial corporations that may commingle meat products from several foreign countries. A 2007 Consumers Union poll of a nationally representative sample of people found 92 percent of consumers agree imported food should have a country-of-origin label.

The U.S. COOL requirements need to remain in place to ensure the protection of America's traditional family farmers and ranchers, consumers and farm animals.

Sincerely,

The HSUS Agriculture Council for Colorado

Tom Parks, DVM
Mike Callicrate
Carrie Balkcom
Matt Kautz

The HSUS Indiana Agriculture Council

Lance Dunbar
James Benham
Peter Eshelman
Cheyenne Kenin

The HSUS Agriculture Advisory Council for Ohio

Mardy Townsend
Joe Logan
Bruce Rickard
Warren Taylor
William Miller

The HSUS Agriculture Council for Oklahoma

Senator Paul Muegge
Harlan Hentges
Lauren Nitschke
Adam Price

The HSUS Nebraska Agriculture Council

Kevin Fulton
Jim Knopik
Jon Yoachim
Doug Dittman
Martin Kleinschmidt
William Powers

The HSUS Iowa Agriculture Council

Chris Petersen
Marian Kuper
John Gilbert
Garry Klicker
Gary Hoskey
Tom Frantzen

The HSUS North Carolina Agriculture Council

Traci Nachtrab
Amanda Carter
Jamie Ager
Shelley Proffitt Eagan
Eliza MacLean
David Spain
Linda Spain

The HSUS Missouri Agriculture Council

Wes Shoemyer
Sheila Nichols
Ruell Chappell
Ken Midkiff
Eric Fuchs
Jake Davis
Chelsea Davis
Eddy Mitchell