



CANADIAN CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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April 17, 2008

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

As you prepare for the trilateral leaders' summit in New Orleans, the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) would like to bring an issue to your attention that is threatening to undermine prosperity of the livestock and meat processing industry in each of the three North American countries.

Despite the objections of many Canadian, U.S. and Mexican industry associations and individual companies and the objection of President Bush himself, the United States Congress has enacted a very disruptive mandatory country of origin labeling (mCOOL) law that comes into effect on October 1, 2008. Although the Congress is currently considering some revisions that may or may not lessen the impact, the prospect of this law is already interfering with commercial decisions and diminishing the value of cattle and hogs not born in the United States.

The CCA and the hog industry jointly commissioned a legal analysis of mCOOL, on the basis of which we are convinced that whatever version of mCOOL gets implemented on October 1, will violate the U.S.' obligations under both NAFTA and the WTO. This analysis has been with officials of the Departments of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and Agriculture and Agri-food Canada since July of 2007.

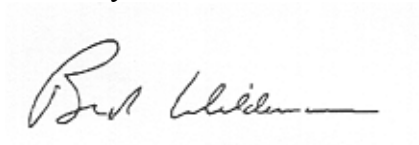
Our request is that you will indicate in very certain terms to President Bush that it is the Government of Canada's view that any requirement by the United States to label meat produced in the United States with the country where the animal was born is a violation of the NAFTA and the WTO. We request that you further tell him that Canada will initiate a trade challenge immediately upon implementation of such a requirement, if not earlier (NAFTA allows for challenge of a prospective measure).

The industry associations in the United States that represent companies that slaughter cattle have indicated that they believe President Bush would find it beneficial to hear these words from you. To date, U.S. Government officials can only report to Congress that the Canadian industry believes the provisions violate NAFTA. All they have heard from Canadian officials is that they expect NAFTA compliant policies to be implemented. We feel it is time for the Government of Canada to clearly connect these dots in no uncertain

terms. Failure to do so emboldens the Congress in their wishes to make mCOOL as disruptive as possible for imported meat and livestock.

Thank you for your attention to this issue and please accept our best wishes for a successful summit.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Wildeman", is centered below the word "Sincerely". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Brad Wildeman
President
Canadian Cattlemen's Association