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USCA Priority Issues 2010

- USCA urges a vigorous defense of country of origin labeling (COOL) law at the World Trade Organization (WTO). USCA has filed two additional rounds of comments in support of COOL. USCA believes that COOL is completely WTO compliant and does not create an unfair trade restriction.
- USCA supports the USDA in its efforts to investigate and enforce antitrust laws ensuring fair market competition. We believe Congress must increase market transparency by addressing captive supply contracts, mandatory price reporting, and packer ownership of cattle.
- USCA supports the Beef Checkoff Modernization Act (S. 1062). This bill amends the Beef Research and Promotion Act to allow the promotion of beef born and raised exclusively in the United States and establishes new referendum requirements.
- USCA supports USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack's announcement that the USDA will undertake actions to further strengthen its animal disease prevention and response capabilities under a new, flexible framework for disease traceability in the U.S. One of USCA's core missions has been to work with USDA to develop an animal disease trace back system that meets the needs of animal health officials at the state and tribal level without burdening producers with additional costs or subjecting them to risk.
- USCA supports permanent estate tax reform establishing the unified credit at \$5,000,000, reducing the maximum estate tax rate to 35%, and increasing the valuation discount available under IRS code section 2032A (special use valuation) to \$2,000,000. Also, we oppose preferential estate tax treatment for farms with environmental easements unless those easements were donated.
- USCA supports the removal of Brucella Abortus from the Toxic Substances and Disease Control and Prevention Select Agent List.
- USCA opposes presidential use of the American Antiquities Act of 1906 that deviates from the original intent of the Act, which was to protect "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest" in an area "confined to the smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the object to be protected."
- USCA opposes regionalization of foreign countries with animal disease problems if such regionalization, through the importation of cattle or beef into the U.S., will weaken animal health or food safety in the United States.

Current Legislation

- ❖ **USCA supports "Open EAJA Act of 2010." H.R. 4717 / S. 3122** - Directs the Attorney General to issue an annual online report to Congress and the public on the amount of attorney fees and other expenses awarded during the preceding fiscal year pursuant to the law commonly known as the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA). It also directs the Comptroller General to commence an audit of the Equal Access to Justice Act for 1995 through the end of the calendar year in which this Act is enacted, and report to Congress on the audit results.
- ❖ **USCA supports H.J. 76 / S.J. Res. 26-** A joint resolution disapproving a rule, submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency, relating to their endangerment finding and the cause or contribute findings for greenhouse gases under section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act.
- ❖ **USCA opposes H.R. 503 / S. 727 - Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act** of 2009. Legislation prohibiting transportation of horses to foreign countries where horses may end up in the food supply has decimated markets for all horses and resulted in horses being abandoned and released on private property and public lands.
- ❖ **USCA opposes the "ROAM Act." H.R. 1018 / S.1579** - Creates a bureaucratic nightmare for wild horse and burro management and leads to further neglect and abuse of these animals
- ❖ **USCA opposes the H.R. 1549 / S. 619 – the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act (PAMTA).** This bill removes valuable and proven medicines that ranchers rely on to keep herds healthy. We support responsible use of antibiotics.
- ❖ **USCA opposes H.R. 5088 / S.787 – the Clean Water Restoration Act.** This bill is likely to result in a change in statute that will considerably increase producer's exposure to regulatory pressure with little corresponding resource or social benefit.

Horn Wrap Conference Call

1st and 3rd Tuesdays of every month

9:00 a.m. EDT 8:00a.m. CDT 7:00 a.m. MDT 6:00 a.m. PDT

Call in number: 1-270-696-2525 Access Code: 032007#