



**National Cattlemen's
Beef Association**

November 28, 2011

The Honorable Geoff Davis
United States House of Representatives
1119 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Davis:

On behalf of the membership and affiliates of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), I would like to thank you for introducing the Regulations from the Executive In Need of Scrutiny Act (REINS), H.R. 10. NCBA strongly supports your legislation as it would provide cattle producers much needed relief from the ever-increasing regulatory overreach of federal agencies. The seemingly constant outflow of burdensome regulations from agencies under the current administration is stifling our economy, business growth and the entrepreneurial spirit across the nation.

Numerous potential and proposed regulations, primarily from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), pose serious financial threats to the cattle industry in particular. The agency's attempt to dramatically expand its regulatory jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act, the potential regulation of coarse particulate matter (dust) at unattainable levels and the regulation of greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act are all examples of the EPA's trend of far-reaching regulations that usurp states' rights and are unfounded by science.

EPA is not the only agency that has proposed potentially devastating regulations. The proposed livestock marketing rule, proposed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration, is also an example of an agency going far beyond the intent of Congress at the expense of producers, and ultimately, consumers. Originally based on specific provisions set forth in the 2008 Farm Bill, the proposed rule's vague wording threatens to destroy decades of progress in the beef industry by opening the door to countless frivolous lawsuits. Packers' fears of being sued for paying an "unfair" premium for quality beef would result in the loss of specialized products demanded by consumers as well as the loss of producers' investments to meet that demand.

It is time to bring accountability to the nation's regulatory system and a mandatory congressional vote on every new major rule proposed by the Executive Branch is certainly a step in the right direction. In an attempt to protect the producers of our nation's food supply, NCBA is fully supportive of the REINS Act and is thankful for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Donald".

Bill Donald, President