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March 21, 2018

**U.S. Department of Agriculture
Food Safety and Inspection Service**
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-3700

**Attention: Ms. Mary Porretta, Petitions Manager
Mr. Matthew Michael, Director, Issuances Staff,
Office of Policy and Program Development
Petition "18-01"**

On behalf of South Dakota producers S.D. Farmers Union strongly encourages the United States Department of Agriculture to implement regulations requiring the Food Safety Inspection Service ensure any product labeled as "beef" comes from cattle that have been born, raised, and harvested in the traditional manner, rather than coming from alternative sources such as a synthetic product from plant, insects, or other non-animal components and any product grown in labs from animal cells.

The broader definition of "meat" should also be limited to the tissue or flesh of animals that have been harvested in the traditional manner. This would similarly prohibit product from alternative sources such as a synthetic product from plant, insects, or other non-animal components and any product grown in labs from animal cells from being labeled as "meat." The current use of terms "beef" and "meat" on alternative protein products that are not derived from livestock is misleading and inaccurate, causing consumers to face confusion at the meat counter. Appropriate labeling of meat products will not limit consumer choice but provide clarity necessary for consumers to make informed decisions.

For today's U.S. cattle producers the term "clean meat" refers to open spaces, livestock grazing on native grasses and or fed grain to give a marbling finish to add flavor. NOT a synthetically made product that is built in a sterile laboratory environment. Cattle producers are continually producing more beef products on less acreage and with fewer resources than ever before; the industry remains active in advancing genetics, feed efficiency and sustainability.

Please support the beef industry as it takes steps to ensure accurate labeling for consumers.

Sincerely,

Doug Sombke
President, South Dakota Farmers Union

UNITED TO GROW FAMILY AGRICULTURE