



AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION®

600 Maryland Ave. SW | Suite 1000W | Washington, DC 20024

ph. 202.406.3600

f. 202.406.3606

www.fb.org

May 27, 2015

The Honorable Michael Conaway
Chairman
House Committee on Agriculture
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I write to inform you that the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) supports H.R. 2393, legislation that addresses the World Trade Organization's (WTO) ruling against the United States with regard to certain provisions of our country of origin labeling law (COOL). The AFBF appreciates the swift action your Committee has taken to address the long-standing challenge to COOL by Canada and Mexico. I also appreciate the extra efforts you and your staff have made to discuss the necessity of this action, which provided the insight that enabled the AFBF Board of Directors to review our position with respect to established policy.

H.R. 2393 amends the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to repeal COOL requirements with respect to beef, pork and chicken while preserving the program for other U.S. commodities, including lamb and goat meat. AFBF policy supports COOL on the condition it conforms with WTO rules. By acting quickly and in a bipartisan fashion, as evidenced by the 36 to 8 final vote, the House Agriculture Committee has made the tough choice to repeal the challenged COOL provisions and, in turn, prevent potential retaliatory actions by Canada and Mexico against U.S. agricultural and other commodities and products as allowed under the WTO rules.

While we had hoped the WTO would rule favorably on the regulatory changes made to COOL in recent years, it is now clear that is not the outcome – and it is time to bring this challenge to a final resolution. We stand ready to work with you and the Committee as H.R. 2393 moves to the House Floor for consideration.

Again, thank you for your leadership and the Committee's action to prevent Canada and Mexico from taking retaliatory actions that could impact farmers and ranchers across a broad range of commodities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Stallman'.

Bob Stallman
President