



Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association

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*The*  
**Cattleman**

 **CATTLE RAISERS**  
INSURANCE  
Hardworking Insurance for Hardworking Families

June 1, 2015

The Honorable Chairman K. Michael Conaway  
House Committee on Agriculture  
1301 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Conaway:

The Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) greatly appreciates your continued efforts to address matters that help the Texas and U.S. cattle industry grow and prosper. TSCRA has long supported free enterprise and market driven solutions to issues, rather than government mandates that can create artificial factors that impact both domestic and foreign beef markets.

As you are well aware, the enactment of the federal law requiring that country of origin labeling (COOL) be mandatory for beef has not only negatively affected beef producers, but also relationships with some of our largest trading partners. This has especially impacted the Texas beef industry and our ability to effectively do business with our Mexican counterparts.

After many years of international trade disputes, it is now clear that the U.S. COOL mandate does not meet international trade protocol. In fact, the U.S. COOL mandate has now been proven to be in violation on four different occasions. This will now open the door, as expected, to very costly retaliatory trade tariffs by our trading partners. In addition, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture recently stated that USDA has done all it can administratively to address these violations and recommended that Congress repeal the COOL mandate.

For these many reasons, it is time for Congress to repeal this law. TSCRA supports H.R. 2393 that repeals the mandatory COOL requirements for beef and stands ready to assist you and other members of Congress with your efforts to pass this important piece of legislation.

Thank you again for your strong support of the cattle industry and especially for your leadership on this issue. Please contact Jason Skaggs at 512-469-0171 or at [jskaggs@tscra.org](mailto:jskaggs@tscra.org) if you should need anything further from TSCRA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pete Bonds".

Pete Bonds  
President