

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 18, 2011

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

Following your testimony during the February 17, 2011, hearing of the House Agriculture Committee, we are writing in regard to the proposed Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) rule on the marketing of livestock and poultry. Your prompt response to the concerns that have previously been raised on this matter and your commitment to conduct a more thorough economic analysis of the proposed rule are appreciated.

As the Department continues to review the more than 60,000 public comments received and conduct a more thorough economic analysis of the proposed rule, we urge you to proceed in a manner that allows further public comment on revisions to the proposal and the pending economic analysis before a final or interim final rule is published. Withdrawing the June 22, 2010, proposed rule and re-proposing a revised rule once the Department completes its economic analysis would allow stakeholders the opportunity they deserve to comment on what we hope will be substantial changes to the proposal more consistent with the intent of Congress outlined in the 2008 Farm Bill.

During debate over the 2008 Farm Bill, amendments were considered and rejected in both the House and Senate regarding many of the specific provisions the Department has outlined in the proposed rule, such as record keeping and competitive injury. Instead, Congress provided a narrow set of issues for the Department to address. It is troubling that the Department appears to be using the rule-making process to accomplish objectives specifically rejected by Congress, and we are confident any such rule will not be looked upon favorably by Congress.

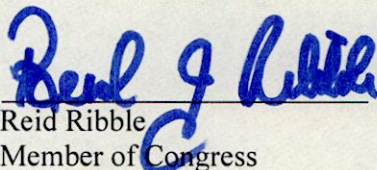
Particularly in a climate in which additional scrutiny is being applied to regulations seen as overreaching or overly burdensome, we urge the Department to proceed in a transparent manner that allows for those most impacted by this action a chance to comment on not only pending changes to the proposal but the accompanying economic analysis as well. Further, to follow up on specific questions raised during the February 17 hearing, we request that the Department provide an update on the timeline for completion of the economic analysis and further action on the proposal.

Your consideration is appreciated and we look forward to your prompt response.

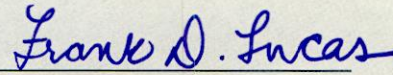
Sincerely,



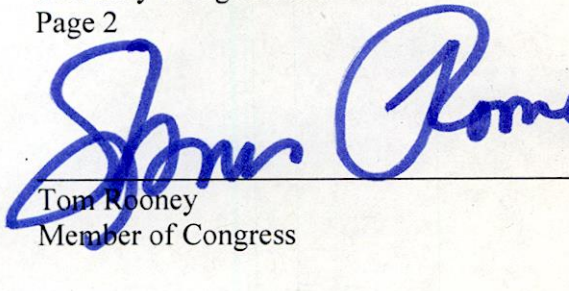
Jim Costa
Member of Congress



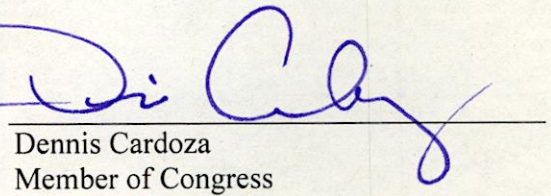
Reid Ribble
Member of Congress



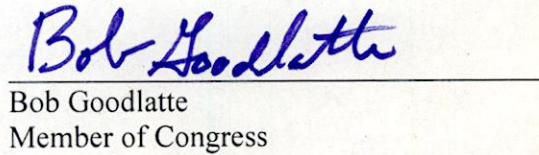
Frank Lucas
Member of Congress




Tom Rooney
Member of Congress



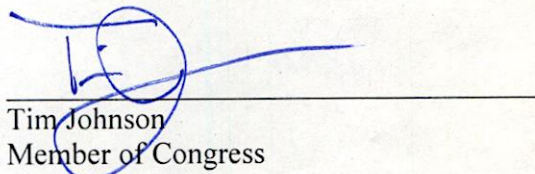
Dennis Cardoza
Member of Congress



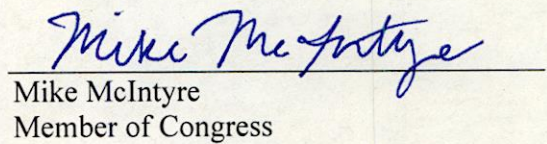
Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress



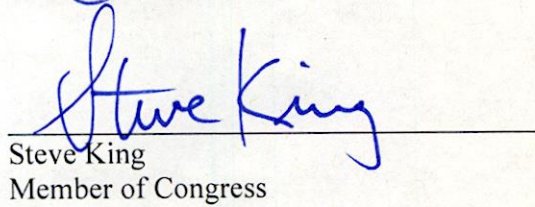
Tim Holden
Member of Congress



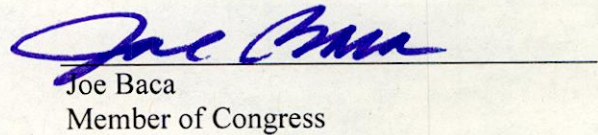
Tim Johnson
Member of Congress



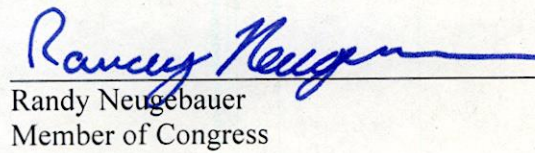
Mike McIntyre
Member of Congress



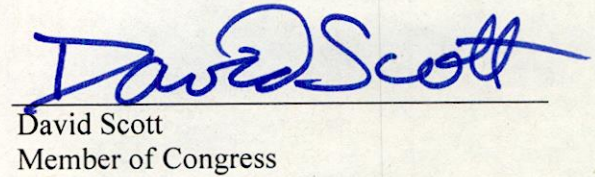
Steve King
Member of Congress



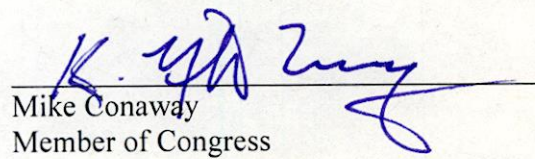
Joe Baca
Member of Congress



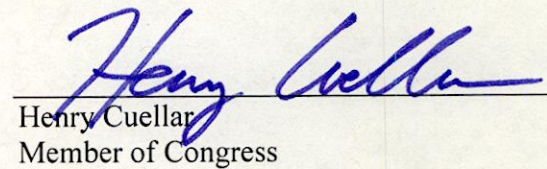
Randy Neugebauer
Member of Congress



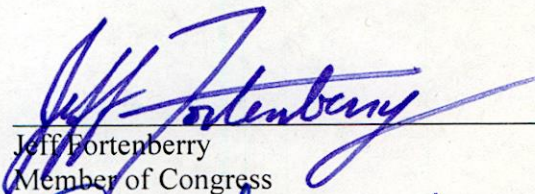
David Scott
Member of Congress



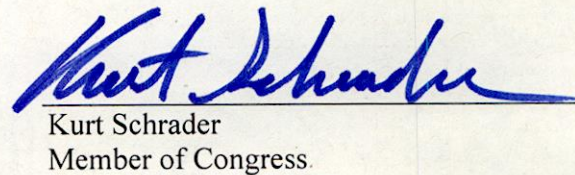
Mike Conaway
Member of Congress



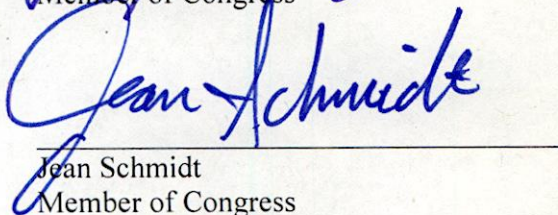
Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



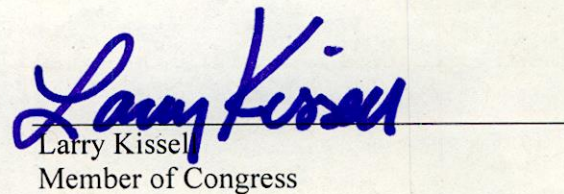
Jeff Fortenberry
Member of Congress



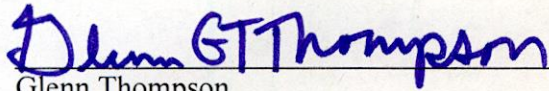
Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



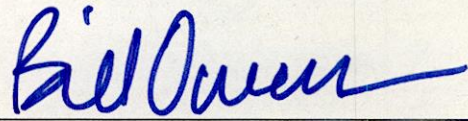
Jean Schmidt
Member of Congress



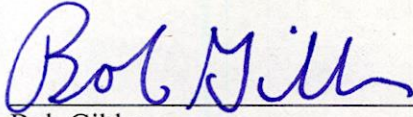
Larry Kissel
Member of Congress



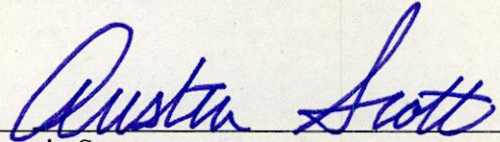
Glenn Thompson
Member of Congress



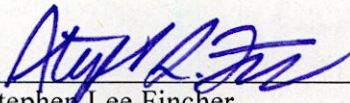
Bill Owens
Member of Congress



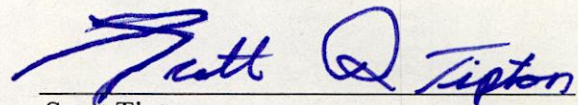
Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



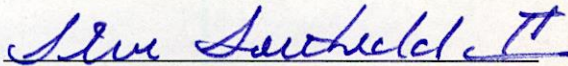
Austin Scott
Member of Congress



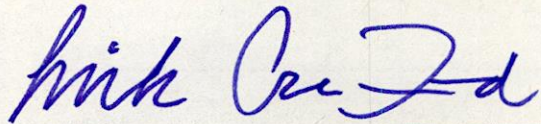
Stephen Lee Fincher
Member of Congress



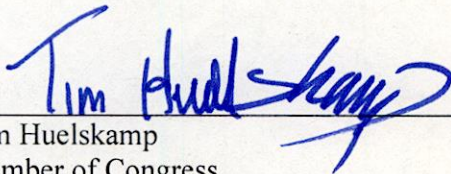
Scott Tipton
Member of Congress



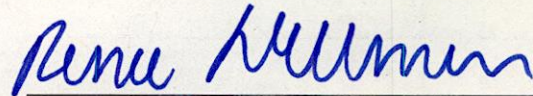
Steve Southerland
Member of Congress



Rick Crawford
Member of Congress



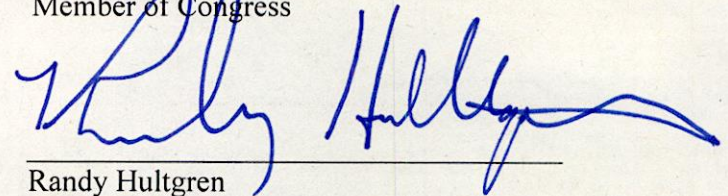
Tim Huelskamp
Member of Congress



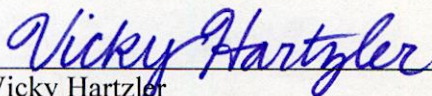
Renee Ellmers
Member of Congress



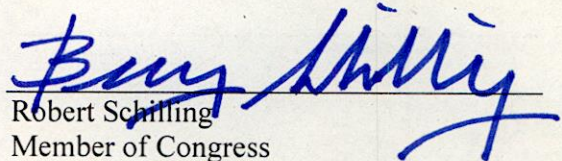
Chris Gibson
Member of Congress



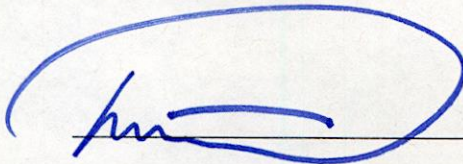
Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress



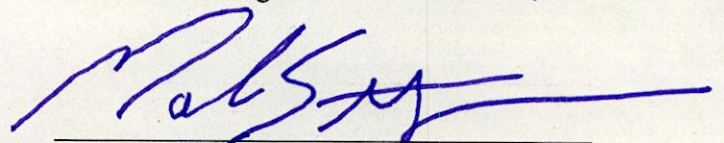
Vicky Hartzler
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Robert Schilling
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Scott DesJarlais
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Marlin Stutzman
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Tom Graves

David Nunn

Jeff Jarvis

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Virginia Fox

Alan

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Robert J. With

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Don Nunneler

Pine Flown

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Diane Black

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Mo Brooks

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Hank Johnson

Pat Tibben

Nick Lamm

Mary Pompeo

Bob Bell

Eil Paulsen

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Johanna Kling

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Colt Clarke

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Doug Walker

Fred Lytle

Ruben Henington

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John Emerso

Soz Wilson

Tom Salham

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John Culberson

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Lamar Smith

Jim Mathews

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Gregory Fortes

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Steve Austin

Adrian Smith

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Jim Walberg

Pete Orr

Daniel Lee

Jim Busby

Joseph R. Pitt

John Bunn

J. N. Cus

Bonnie A. Thompson

Wm. M. ...

Harold Goble

James ...

Bill ...