



March 4, 2013

The Honorable Todd Young  
1007 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Young,

On behalf of the membership and affiliates of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) and the Public Lands Council (PLC), we would like to thank you for introducing H.R.367, the Regulations from the Executive In Need of Scrutiny Act (REINS). NCBA and PLC strongly support your legislation as it would provide much needed relief to livestock producers 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 livestock industry. The agency's attempt to dramatically expand its regulatory jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act; the continued regulation of coarse particulate matter (dust) at unattainable levels in arid parts of the country; and the regulation of greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act are all examples of EPA's trend of far-reaching regulations that usurp states' rights and are unfounded by science.

In another example of regulatory overreach, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service has finalized a national planning rule which has the potential to significantly impact livestock producers on federal lands and all activities on National Forests across the country. The rule lies outside the statutory mandates that require the multiple-use management of our National Forests.

In 2010, USDA's Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration's proposed a livestock and poultry marketing rule that went far beyond the intent of Congress at the expense of producers and, ultimately, consumers. Originally based on key provisions set forth in the 2008 Farm Bill, the proposed rule's vague wording threatened to destroy decades of progress in the beef industry. Broad definitions of "competitive injury" and "likelihood of competitive injury" paved the way for a trial lawyer's bonanza, which if maintained will destroy producer's rights to capture premiums based on the quality of their livestock as well as consumers' rights to a variety of specially branded products they have demanded.

These are just a few examples of the regulatory overreach continually placed on U.S. livestock producers. In order to protect the producers of our nation's food supply from this regulatory attack, NCBA and PLC fully support congressional efforts to bring accountability to the executive branch through a mandatory vote on every new proposed major rule. Therefore, we are fully supportive of the REINS Act and are thankful for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott George".

Scott George  
President  
National Cattlemen's Beef Association

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brice Lee".

Brice Lee  
President  
Public Lands Council