



OHIO FARMERS UNION

Serving Ohio's Family Farmers

www.ohfarmersunion.org / *New, Revised Website – Check it Out!!!!*

August 26, 2011

Subject: Please consider signing farmer's letter to Senator Brown supporting GIPSA

Dear Farmers Union Members:

For decades, a very small handful of giant meatpackers and processors has been underpaying and unfairly treating farmers and ranchers. However, funding for a new GIPSA rule is being considered by the US Senate subcommittee for Ag Appropriations (which Senator Sherrod Brown serves on) and we need to show support for it so the Senator stands strong with family farms.

GIPSA (The Grain Inspection, Packers, and Stockyards Administration) is seeking to enact a new rule that will:

- Stop packers from engaging in unfair and deceptive practices to harm livestock producers.
- Allow farmers and contract holders to have open and fair contracts for their livestock and products.
- Allow a single farm to prove they had been harmed by the industry, instead of the current threshold which mandates a farmer must prove the entire market was harmed by industry malpractice.
- Break up large monopolies and price fixing which has become commonplace in the livestock industry.

The letter to Senator Brown is on the reverse side of this letter. To add your name to the letter, please respond by faxing signed letter to 1-888-701-3839, contacting the Ohio Farmers Union at 800-321-3671, or e-mailing lborton@ohfarmersunion.org with:

1. Your name (and/or spouse)
2. The name of your farm, if available
3. Your town/city

Senator Brown likes to know that support is their from farmers, so please do sign and consider passing this letter on to others!

Thanks.

Sincerely,

Roger Wise, President
Ohio Farmers Union

Administrative Office

1011 N. Defiance Street, P.O. Box 363
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Senator Sherrod Brown
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Brown:

We, the undersigned Ohio farmers, urge you to support the USDA's proposed GIPSA Rule to help level the playing field for livestock farmers and contract poultry growers. This proposed regulation, known as the GIPSA Rule for the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration that would implement it, came from the 2008 Farm Bill in which Congress directed the USDA to re-evaluate the need for fairness in the marketplace.

It has been one year since the GIPSA Rule was released for consideration, and in that time, more than 60,000 comments were submitted. Farmers, ranchers, The National Farmers Union and the American Farm Bureau Federation, as well as organizations working to protect local communities and the environment have voiced strong support for this much-needed rule. However, organizations representing the largest corporations in livestock agriculture are strongly opposing these changes and the House of Representatives recently passed an Agriculture Appropriations bill that included a provision to stop the GIPSA Rule from moving forward. Please resist any similar efforts in the Senate.

Over the past 50 years, livestock agriculture has changed significantly and our Ohio tradition of family farming has been threatened. The industry has consolidated and now most farmers and ranchers are struggling to compete in a marketplace controlled by large corporations. As a result of consolidation and increased corporate control, we are often unable to make independent decisions about how we raise our animals or whether we can ask for fairer prices for our meat and livestock. These challenges could be mitigated and the playing field leveled if the GIPSA rule is finalized.

Farmers need this rule now to ensure that we have the information available to make sound business decisions, the ability to earn "farm supporting" prices for our livestock, and the protections needed to make our farms strong and viable. Please support the GIPSA Rule and oppose any attempts in the Senate to derail it from being finalized and implemented.

Sincerely,

Your name (and/or spouse), farm name (if available) and town/city.

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