EXHIBIT 9
DATE 2/15/05
HB 406

Forcella Meats
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2/15/05

inre: 406 country of Origin placarding

We, as a State inspected Slaughter and Processing facility have many questions regarding this bill.

1st Why do we need a state Bill when one already exists at the Federal level, was put in the 2002 Farm bill to be implemented in 2006.

2nd Senator Conrad burns has introduced legislation in S135 that accelerates this 2002 farm bill action of Country of Origin by 1 year to 2005 with added wording that is to include all processed beef rather than the original bill that called for beef and ground beef.

3rd Should HB 406 pass will it supersede the Federal Bill? Will we, when the Federal bill is implemented have two or perhaps three (3) Country of origin bills to have to deal with should Senator Burns' Bill Be considered as separate.

a; Why add more burdensome laws when The Federal Government already has one ready to take effect in less than a year? Why try to come up with the additional money when it is unnecessary.

b; How will two inspectors traveling the state be able to police all of this, coming to plants probably no more than one time a year.

4th How will small plants such as those we have in Montana, be affected by each of these bills and how much additional paper work is this going to cause us to have to do?

5th Not only will we have to raise our prices in order to contend with all this added work but it will make purchasing our product by John Q public impossible to be able to afford.

6th As the added work will start as soon as the calf is on the ground, the already strapped livestock industry will have this added burden to contend with. Especially how do the livestock purchased, and on the farm before COOL be considered for labeling. Do we go back to When???

7th We, as an inspected facility are asking these questions because we do want to stay in business and we do want our product to be competitive in the already inflated market. We make our products as affordable as possible to our clientele and wish to remain so. + to keep them of Highest quality

Thank you for your time

Joan Forcella

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