



One Meating Place P.O. Box 269 Elizabethtown, PA 17022
Phone: (717) 367-1168 Fax: (717) 367-9096
Email: aamp@aamp.com Website: www.aamp.com

***SAMPLE LETTER TO CONGRESS OPPOSING THE
PROPOSED FSIS USER FEES***

February 13, 2006

The Honorable (Representative/Senator's Last Name)
U.S. House of Representatives/United States Senate (Insert One)
Washington, D.C. 20515/20510 (Check the Zip Code Based on House or Senate)

Dear Representative/Senator (Last Name):

The 2007 U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) budget proposal includes funds that would come from new Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) user fees. \$105 million will be derived from the first year of the proposed user fees that are being requested to cover the costs of Federal inspection and to maintain the Federal support of State inspection programs.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to user fees. I am a small meat/poultry processor located in (City, State). My business has been family owned and operated since (year). (Fill in any information about your plant here).

The inspection of meat, poultry, and egg products is a public health program funded by American taxpayers and was designed to protect consumers. The proposed user fees are simply an additional "food safety tax" which forces industry to assume responsibility for the cost of inspection services. The extra costs will ultimately be passed on to my customers, who already pay for these services through taxes! The credibility of the inspection program would also be in jeopardy because the U.S. government would have no incentive to control costs or to run an effective and efficient program that benefits the public. Furthermore, my meat/poultry products may be at a competitive disadvantage when compared with other products in the marketplace that are not subject to a food safety tax.

User fees have been proposed in the past and have always been opposed by Congress. Consumer groups, farm organizations, and industry trade associations are all in agreement that imposing a food safety tax on meat, poultry, and egg products inspection would have negative impacts on the industry and the public's perception of the Federal inspection programs. My business needs your support on this issue and I encourage you to oppose the proposed user fees. Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

(PUT THE LETTER ON YOUR COMPANY'S LETTERHEAD)