

Support Legislation For Local Economic Growth, Fair Markets, Small Business and Consumers

Support S. 1150 and S. 1149 introduced by Sens. Orrin Hatch (UT) and Herb Kohl (WI)

An outdated and unfair law from the 1960s prohibits the sale of state-inspected meat products (beef, poultry, pork, lamb and goat) across state lines. There are 2,000 state-inspected meat processors—mostly small, family-owned businesses—who are prevented from competing in the national marketplace. *Two bills have been introduced in the Senate—S. 1150 by Sens. Orrin Hatch (UT) and Mike Enzi (WY); and S. 1149 by Sens. Herb Kohl (WI), Max Baucus (MT), and Kent Conrad (ND)—that would allow state-inspected meat and poultry to be sold nationwide.*

We urge Congress to take action now because:

- Meat and poultry products from 34 foreign countries can be freely shipped and sold anywhere in the U.S.—but our domestic small businesses and processors cannot. ***Why are small businesses in the U.S. denied the same opportunities given to companies in foreign countries?***
- Our locally-produced, state-inspected meats are some of the best specialty products in the country. ***It doesn't make sense to say consumers in Iowa can enjoy these products while consumers across the state border in Missouri cannot eat and enjoy the same products.***
- No other state-inspected food commodities are prohibited from being shipped across state lines. Other state-inspected food products (milk, dairy, fruit, vegetables, fish) are freely marketed across the country. ***Why aren't the same marketing options available for meat and poultry?***
- The restriction on interstate meat sales does not apply to products such as venison, pheasant, quail, rabbit and others. It doesn't make sense to allow these products across state lines while beef, pork, lamb and goat cannot be shipped interstate. ***Where's the logic in this?***

Three USDA Advisory Committees have recommended repealing the outdated law because it would create jobs and stimulate rural economic growth.

More than 40 national, state and local agricultural organizations have urged Congress to pass legislation to give rural small businesses and processors national market access.

Interstate meat sales legislation will provide economic fairness and open markets. Increased markets will not only benefit producers, processors and small businesses, but it also gives consumers more choices at the supermarket. ***It's just common sense & it's the right thing to do!***