June , 2015

Your Local MP

Street

City, Province

PC

**Re: Country of Origin Labelling (COOL)**

Dear MP,

As a sheep producer (feedlot owner/stakeholder) and member of your constituency, I would like to take this opportunity to express its disappointment and concern over recent decisions by the US House Committee on Agriculture to recommend continued country of origin labelling requirements for lamb. I am equally concerned that the Federal Government has not advocated for the full repeal of country of origin labelling.

The Government of Canada has pursued repeal of COOL legislation through the World Trade Organization (WTO), with the last and final ruling of the WTO maintaining that the legislation contravenes both General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 and the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement. The expectation by all livestock sectors in Canada is that the US industry will follow suit by repealing COOL legislation.

However, the US House Committee on Agriculture recently drafted proposed amendments to COOL legislation that would leave country of origin labeling requirements in place for lamb. As a Canadian sheep producer, this is a very disappointing and concerning development. As is the decision of Ministers Ritz and Fast to pursue retaliatory action on behalf of the beef and pork sectors alone. The House Committee on Agriculture’s proposed amendments to COOL legislation would isolate the sheep industry as the sole livestock sector subject to country of origin labelling. Not only does this create an un-level playing field from a trade perspective, it undermines the industry’s position within Canada’s livestock sector. More importantly, a mere partial repeal of COOL legislation flies in the face of the WTO ruling and leaves the door open to continued imposition of non-tariff trade barriers by the US that undermine existing trade agreements.

As my representative in Parliament, I look to your office to and the federal government to support my industry’s need to re-establish equitable trade agreements with our US trading partners.

Regards,