



NATIONAL CATTLEMEN'S BEEF ASSOCIATION

1301 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. • Suite 300 • Washington, DC 20004-1701
Phone 202-347-0228 • Fax 202-638-0607 • Web Site www.beef.org • E-mail cattle@beef.org

March 28, 2001

The Honorable Jim Nussle
Chairman
House Budget Committee
309 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Mr. Chairman,

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) supports passage of House Concurrent Resolution 83, the FY 2002 Budget Resolution.

This budget resolution provides resources that are important for the health and long-term sustainability of American agriculture. It provides:

1. Contingency funds for emergency assistance to agricultural producers.
2. Tax cuts that are important to livestock producers including repeal of the destructive "Death Tax."
3. Debt reduction that will help improve the long-term financial stability of the US.

The NCBA appreciates the manner in which you have worked to provide funding and flexibility to the House Agriculture Committee for the development of a new farm bill. NCBA will work to ensure that programs created from this budget's allocation address the issue of funding for cost-share programs related to conservation and environmental compliance.

The likely implementation of AFO-CAFO regulations will add significant regulatory and compliance costs to the beef industry. These regulations may also negatively impact farmers and agricultural communities that count on livestock production to support local grain markets. Local grain markets may disappear if livestock producers decide to leave the business instead of comply with burdensome, onerous and costly regulations.

NCBA understands the complexities of the current budget situation and the multitude of demands that are placed on scarce, limited resources. However, given the current and impending regulatory costs with which our industry is burdened, we need to ensure that our problems are addressed along with other segments of agriculture.

We will work with you and House Agriculture Committee Chairman Combest to ensure that the needs of the beef and livestock industry are addressed in any legislation that passes the House Agriculture Committee by the budget imposed July deadline.

The NCBA will be happy to discuss these important issues with you or your staff at any time.

Sincerely,

Lynn Cornwell
NCBA President

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