

Testimony of Mark Dopp

On Behalf of the North American Meat Institute

Regarding Reauthorization of Mandatory Price Reporting

Wednesday, April 22nd, 2015

House Committee on Agriculture

Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture

Rep. David Rouzer – Chairman

Rep. Jim Costa – Ranking Member

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Costa, and members of the Committee. My name is Mark Dopp and I am Senior Vice President and General Counsel of the North American Meat Institute. The Meat Institute, which came into being on January 1 of this year as a result of the merger of the American Meat Institute and the North American Meat Association, has been representing the nation's meat and poultry industries for more than 100 years.

The Meat Institute's members include 376 of the nation's largest and smallest meat and poultry food manufacturers. Collectively, they produce 95 percent of the beef, pork, veal and lamb products and 75 percent of the turkey products in the U.S. Among the Meat Institute's member companies, 80 percent are small, family-owned businesses employing fewer than 300 people. These companies operate, compete, sometimes struggle and mostly thrive in what has become one of the toughest, most competitive and the most scrutinized sectors of our economy: meat packing and processing.

Meat Institute member companies worked closely with the livestock producer community, the Agricultural Marketing Service, and other interested stakeholders when this reporting program first came into being and on every reauthorization effort since. This iteration of reauthorization must be no different. In that regard, the Meat Institute has been working with its membership and with livestock producer groups, to find consensus on reauthorizing the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act and I hope we continue this partnership to move this legislation forward, free of controversy.

Although there is work yet to be done to reach consensus, I am confident we can achieve this goal in a manner that makes the program more effective and efficient without increasing costs or regulatory burdens.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this hearing. I would be happy to answer questions.