

From Brenda Woolhouse

[ESP NOTE: Brenda grows vegetables which she sells at the Farmers' Market. She writes an introduction, and follows that with the letter (it's long because she includes some of the wording in the bill)

Hi everyone - I strongly urge you to write your congressman requesting that they oppose bill HR 875 which deals with the regulation of food production, storage and etc. I have attached the bill for your reference, but have put the highlights in a letter to my congressman. Please, please really do this. I know it takes a little time, but if we don't do anything we will be forced into accepting this crap they are feeding us. The House of Representatives have passed the Bill, it is now in the Senate. You can google more information just type in HR 825. Below is my letter, feel free to copy and use it or write your own.

Thanks for your help and support of the little guy farmers, ranchers and fruit growers - like myself and my family.

Love Ya!

Brenda Woolhouse

P.S - ALSO - PASS IT ALONG TO YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES.

Senator Baucus,

I writing you today because I strongly oppose Bill HR 825 - Food Safety Bill because certain elements of the bill will, once again, restrict our freedoms and lead the way to a more socialize state controlled by the government and its large corporate bed buddies. I humbly request that you also oppose this bill AS WRITTEN. I am specifically concerned about the following sections and paragraphs within the bill. For brevity, I have inserted and highlighted the verbiage so it may or may not include the whole verbiage of the section or paragraph:

(14) FOOD PRODUCTION FACILITY- The term `food production facility' means any farm, ranch, orchard, vineyard, aquaculture facility, or confined animal-feeding operation.

SEC. 206. FOOD PRODUCTION FACILITIES.

(a) Authorities- In carrying out the duties of the Administrator and the purposes of this Act, the Administrator shall have the authority, with respect to food production facilities, to--

(1) visit and inspect food production facilities in the United States and in foreign countries to determine if they are operating in compliance with the requirements of the food safety law;

(2) review food safety records as required to be kept by the Administrator under section 210 and for other food safety purposes;

(3) set good practice standards to protect the public and animal health and promote food safety;

(4) conduct monitoring and surveillance of animals, plants, products, or the environment, as appropriate; and

(5) collect and maintain information relevant to public health and farm practices.

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(2) require each food production facility to have a written food safety plan that describes the likely hazards and preventive controls implemented to address those hazards;

(3) include, with respect to growing, harvesting, sorting, and storage operations, minimum standards related to fertilizer use, nutrients, hygiene, packaging, temperature controls, animal encroachment, and water;

(4) include, with respect to animals raised for food, minimum standards related to the animal's health, feed, and environment which bear on the safety of food for human consumption;

(5) provide a reasonable period of time for compliance, taking into account the needs of small businesses for additional time to comply;

SEC. 210. TRACEBACK REQUIREMENTS.

(a) In General- The Administrator, in order to protect the public health, shall establish a national traceability system that enables the Administrator to retrieve the history, use, and location of an article of food through all stages of its production, processing, and distribution.

(b) Applicability- Traceability requirements under this section shall apply to food from food production facilities, food establishments, and foreign food establishments.

(c) Requirements-

(1) STANDARDS- The Administrator shall establish standards for the type of information, format, and timeframe for food production facilities and food establishments to submit records to aid the Administrator in effectively retrieving the history, use, and location of an item of food.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION- Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring the Administrator to prescribe a specific technology for the maintenance of records or labeling of food to carry out the requirements of this section.

(3) AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS FOR INSPECTION- Any records that are required by the Administrator under this section shall be available for inspection by the Administrator upon oral or written request.

(4) DEMONSTRATION OF ABILITY- The Administrator, during any inspection, may require a food establishment to demonstrate its ability to trace an item of food and submit the information in the format and timeframe required under paragraph (1).

---My comments & questions---

1) ANY "FARM, RANCH, ORCHARD, VINEYARD...."????.

a. WHY SUCH A BROAD CLASSIFICATION? THIS WILL GIVE THE FEDERAL GOV'T CONTROL OF MY FARM WHICH I GROW VEGETABLES AND SELL AT THE LOCAL FARMERS MARKET - WHY SHOULD WE BE SO MICRO-MANAGED AND DICTATED TO?

b. I HAVE A COUPLE OF CHICKENS WHICH I NOT ONLY TRADE EGGS FOR MILK WITH A FRIEND, BUT I ALSO SELL AT THE LOCAL FARMERS MARKET - THIS IS MY PERSONAL RIGHT AND I SHOULD NOT HAVE TO HAVE MY FARM INSPECTED, FINED, SEIZED OR WHATEVER BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT JUST BECAUSE I RAISE MY OWN FOOD AND SELL IT FOR PENNIES ON THE DOLLAR.

3) WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE LOCAL OR SMALL SCALE FARMER SHOULD THIS BILL PASS? - IT WILL ERATICATE [sic] THEM. THEY WILL BE FINED, PROPERTY SEIZED AND ETC JUST BECAUSE OF LOOSE VERBIAGE IN THIS BILL.

4) FOOD SUPPLY - THIS BILL SEEMS LIKE IT IS GIVING THE CORPORATE FOOD GROWERS, SEED SUPPLIERS AND ALIKE, A BLANK CHECK TO CONTROL THE FOOD SUPPLY BECAUSE THE LITTLE GUY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DEFEND HIMSELF AGAINST THIS TYPE OF LEGISLATION.

5) THIS TYPE OF LEGISLATION SHOULD BE SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSED TO THE LARGE,

MULTINATIONAL CORPORATE BROKERS AND MANUFACTURERS ALONG WITH FOREIGN FOOD BROKERS.

6) IF ANY LEGISLATION NEEDS TO BE PUT INTO LAW REGARDING FOOD SAFETY, IT SHOULD BE THE USE, MANUFACTURING AND PROPAGATING OF "GMO" OR ALTERED SEEDS, FOODS AND ALIKE. WE SHOULDN'T HAVE TO EAT ANYTHING THAT HAS BEEN

"ALTERED" OR AT LEAST HAVE THE CHOICE NOT TO. ANY FOOD THAT HAS BEEN MODIFIED, ALTERED, GENENTICALLY HYBRID OR ETC SHOULD BE CLEARLY MARKED SO

THE CONSUMER CAN MAKE THE CHOICE TO "CONSUME" OR NOT.

6) TRACEBACK REQUIREMENTS

AGAIN, FOR THE SMALL FARMER, RANCHER AND FRUIT GROWER - IF WE DON'T KEEP RECORDS WHERE OUR SEEDS COME FROM OR WHERE WE GOT OUR FERTILIZER OR WHERE WE BOUGHT ARE BABY CHICKS FROM - DOES THIS MEAN THAT WE STAND THE CHANCE OF FINES, PROPERTY SEIZURE AND / OR OTHER? THE VERBIAGE IN THIS BILL IS SMIPLY TOO LOOSE THUS GIVING SOME WACKED OUT GOVERNMENT ENFORCER TOO MUCH POWER TO SEIZE CONTROL OF PERSONAL PROPERTY - CASE IN POINT THE HORSE FARMER IN NEW HAMPSHIRE WHO HAD HIS RACE HORSES TAKEN FROM HIS PROPERTY BY A GOVERNMENT AGENT.

THE AMOUNT OF TIME, MONEY AND RESOURCES REQUIRED FOR THE SMALL SQUARE FARMER TO PERFORM THE TASKS REQUIRED WOULD NOT MAKE THE FOOD SAFER, JUST LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN FOR THE FEDERAL GOV'T TO RAID OUR FARMS AND RANCHES.

Anyway, I could go on and on - I hope that you are listening and will strong oppose this bill and educate your other allies in Congress to do the same. We Montanans have farmer, rancher and down home stock running through our veins. It truly scares me to think that the federal government is actually trying to regulate the soil we till and the food we grow to feed ourselves and families. It is the large corporate, multi national and foreign food brokers and manufacturers that we be subjected to regulation - not the ranchers and farmers.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Brenda Woolhouse

American Citizen, Montana Resident and voter.