To: Commissioners, Secretaries and Directors of Agriculture & National Association of State Meat and Food Inspection Directors (NASMFID)

From: Rick Kirchhoff and Charlie Ingram

Date: February 17, 2000

Subject: URGENT ACTION REQUEST - SENATE ACTION ON INTERSTATE MEAT SHIPMENT

The Senate Agriculture Committee is meeting today to decide whether or not to take action on interstate meat shipment legislation (S. 1988) introduced by Sens. Hatch (R-UT) and Daschle (D-SD). The committee also plans to discuss possible strategy for how and when to proceed with the legislation (i.e. hold hearings first or directly mark up the bill for full Senate consideration).

The committee is holding this discussion because critics of the Hatch-Daschle bill are now aggressively seeking to delay the legislation. This will give opponents more time to generate crippling amendments and controversy which will defeat the bill. All Senate Agriculture Committee members are under pressure from this effort.

Removing the ban on interstate shipment of state-inspected meat has been one of NASDA's highest priorities. This may be the only opportunity to achieve our goal this year. Your immediate help is needed to make sure the Senate Agriculture Committee takes positive action. We urge you to call your Senators today and urge them to support interstate meat shipment and the Hatch-Daschle bill (S. 1988). The phone number for the U.S. Capitol switchboard is (202) 224-3121. You can also send the same message to the Senate Agriculture Committee by phone at (202) 224-2035 or by fax at (202) 224-1725. Below is a list of committee members.

Richard Lugar (R-IN), Chairman
Jesse Helms (R-NC)
Thad Cochran (R-MS)
Mitch McConnell (R-KY)
Paul Coverdell (R-GA)
Pat Roberts (R-KS)
Peter Fitzgerald (R-IL)
Charles Grassley (R-IA)
Larry Craig (R-ID)
Rick Santorum (R-PA)
Tom Harkin (D-IA), Ranking Member
Patrick Leahy (D-VT)
Kent Conrad (D-ND)
Tom Daschle (D-SD)
Max Baucus (D-MT)
Bob Kerrey (D-NE)
Tim Johnson (D-SD)
Blanche Lincoln (D-AR)