



Consumer Federation of America

**Consumers
Union**
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Dear President Obama:

We are writing to urge your administration to appeal the November 2011 ruling by a World Trade Organization (WTO) panel against U.S. country-of-origin labeling on meat.

Our organizations are strong supporters of this law, which was implemented in March 2009, after decades of consumer efforts. Country-of-origin labeling is wildly popular in the U.S., as poll after poll show overwhelming support for labeling. Indeed, nations around the world are implementing variants of such laws.

The panel affirmed the right of the United States to require country-of-origin labeling for meat products, but concluded that requiring companies to comply with the law was too costly for imported livestock (in violation of WTO rules), while also concluding that the flexibilities in the law (made in response to demands by importers themselves) violated other WTO rules. The panel's conflicted ruling demonstrates the extreme perils of allowing trade lawyers to interfere with consumer regulation. If upheld on appeal, the WTO ruling will undermine consumers' faith in the fairness of these international institutions.

Please feel free to be in touch with any of our organizations if we can be of assistance as you craft this appeal.

Sincerely,

Consumer Federation of America

Consumers Union

Food & Water Watch

Public Citizen