



NATIONAL MEAT ASSOCIATION®

1970 Broadway, Suite 825, Oakland, CA 94612
Ph. (510) 763-1533 or (202) 667-2108 • Fax (510) 763-6186
staff@nmaonline.org • http://www.nmaonline.org

June 18, 2010

**J. Dudley Butler, Administrator
Grain Inspection, Packers & Stockyards Administration
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC 20250**

Dear Mr. Butler:

During your industry teleconference this morning outlining the proposed changes to P&SA regulations that will be published next week, I asked a follow-up question in response to the statement by GIPSA that "... GIPSA has received complaints from market participants that packer-to-packer sales may have the intended or unintended effect of manipulating market prices." My question requested information about the complaints that GIPSA has received. These complaints are being used to justify and drive this arbitrary proposed change to ban packer-to-packer transactions, but they have not been delineated or substantiated in any way in the documents made public so far. Nor were you able to provide them to me during the call. After a secondary question, you responded that you would look into the issue and get back to me.

We appreciate your commitment to transparency in market conditions. I look forward to receiving the information I request, and which must clearly have been documented in order for you to develop this proposal. As I pointed out, all these packer transactions are reported through the Mandatory Price Reporting system run by USDA

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

**Rosemary Mucklow
Director Emeritus**