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NMA v. HARRIS HEARD TODAY BY SUPREME COURT

OAKLAND, CA – The Supreme Court today heard arguments in *National Meat Association v. Harris*, a case presenting the issue of whether the uniformity provisions of the Federal Meat Inspection Act preempt a 2008 California law, the requirements of which differ from federal law and regulations.

Uniformity and preemption provisions were added to the Federal Meat Inspection Act by Congress in 1967. These provisions were previously reviewed by the United States Supreme Court in 1977 in the case of *Rath v. Jones*, which also originated in California. In that case the high court reached a unanimous 9-0 decision that California's additional and different requirements were preempted by the federal law.

National Meat Association was represented before the Court by attorney Steven Wells of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and supporting argument was presented by Assistant Solicitor General Benjamin Horwich, representing the United States government and the United States Department of Agriculture.

“We are pleased that the Supreme Court has seen fit to review this important case, and we particularly appreciate the supporting arguments presented by the Solicitor General's office on behalf of the United States. We look forward to the Court's decision, which we hope and believe should be favorable,” National Meat Association CEO Barry Carpenter commented after the argument.

The Court will render its decision later in the current term, which concludes in June, 2012.

National Meat Association is a non-profit trade association. Since 1946, NMA has represented meat packers and processors, equipment manufacturers and food suppliers who provide services to the meat industry. The association has members throughout the United States, as well as in Canada, Australia and Mexico.