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1970 Broadway, Ste. 825, Oakland, CA 94612 ♦ (510) 763-1533 ♦ Fax (510) 763-6186 ♦ staff@nmaonline.org ♦ www.nmaonline.org

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Contact: Jeremy Russell
Director of Communications and Government Relations
jeremy@nmaonline.org
(510) 763-1533

NMA JOINS CALL FOR END TO ETHANOL FAVORITISM

OAKLAND, CA – National Meat Association joined a coalition of livestock and poultry trade associations today to call the Senate to allow a 30-year-old tax credit and a protective tariff for ethanol to expire.

Government support for corn-ethanol has hit feed prices hard, noted the groups. The agriculture economy is being damaged by these programs, specifically by the Volumetric Ethanol Excise Tax Credit (VEETC) and the import tariff on foreign ethanol.

“We cannot allow ill-conceived national policy to continue damaging our members, the industry and indeed the entire economy. Food security is of critical importance, as are alternative fuels, and it’s time we found a way to support both without threatening either,” said NMA CEO Barry Carpenter.

The request was made in a letter signed by the American Meat Institute, the National Turkey Federation, the National Chicken Council, the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, and the National Pork Producer’s Council, as well as National Meat Association.

“The blender’s tax credit, coupled with the import tariff on foreign ethanol, has distorted the corn market, increased the cost of feeding animals, and squeezed production margins, resulting in job losses and bankruptcies in rural communities across America,” stated the letter, which can be read online at <http://nmaonline.org/pdf/07.16.10.Ltr.to.Sen.Reid.&McConnell.on.ethanol.tax.credits.FINAL.pdf>.

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.