

**Statement**  
**Rosemary Mucklow**  
**Director Emeritus**  
**National Meat Association**  
**Oakland, CA**  
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I have been associated with National Meat Association and its predecessor organizations for 50 years. I am also a Trustee of the Provision Workers Pension Trust, a Taft-Hartley Fund, serving with UFCW officers to provide pension benefits to meat industry blue-collar workers in the Los Angeles area.

Thirty years ago, Vernon was like many other central cities in the U.S. – populated by slaughter facilities where producers could bring their livestock to be converted into food for the constituency in the greater Southern California area. In addition, there were firms, often branch houses of then very large packers, like Oscar Mayer, Vienna Sausage, Safeway Stores, Ol Virginia, and many more, that employed blue collar workers to make sausage and processed meats, and, in the case of Safeway, to cut large carcasses into manageable pieces to distribute to the retail stores where the cutting was finished. Many of the pensioners in the Pension Fund worked at firms like this. The slaughter firms have gone, and the product they provided now comes in the form of boxed beef hundreds and even thousands of miles from the Midwest. There is one exception: Farmer John, formerly owned by its 1930s founders, the Clougherty Family, and now part of Hormel Foods in Austin, Minnesota. Hormel has continued the Farmer John tradition in Vernon, but there is a serious risk that AB 46 will take away the last benefits of maintaining this great facility where nearly 2,000 men and women are employed. All the other slaughter firms on Vernon Avenue, Federal Meat, Shamrock Meat, Beef co, Acme Meat, Gem Packing, Choe Meat Co., Delta Meat Packing, Geldin Meat Co., Gem Packing Co. Gold-Pak Meat Co., Great Western Packing Co., McCoy Meat Co., all part of the vibrant Vernon economy in 1983, are gone.

Vernon is a unique, industrial city, and the meat industry workers live in ancillary communities and come to Vernon every day to earn an honest living making food for people to eat. That food, meat and meat products, could well be made by workers in Iowa, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Colorado, and many other states, and simply trucked into the greater Los Angeles area, not for further processing, but merely for distribution.

The meat/poultry industry firms that remain in Vernon, and the State Legislature has been provided with the names of the firms, are battle-hardened survivors in a very tough industry. They find it hard to believe that the men/women they elected to represent them in the State Legislature would initiate an effort to disincorporate the City which has survived as an industrial city, when such industrialization has moved out of cities in the last thirty years, and thereby cost them dearly and most likely cause them to either become simply distributors rather than processors, having the product prepared in some other location somewhere in the U.S.

Rosemary Mucklow served as Executive Director of National Meat Association, and its predecessors, since 1961. She became Director Emeritus in 2007. She was inducted into the Meat Industry Hall of Fame, one of only two women so honored, in 2009.