

June 29, 2011



**TEXAS
CATTLE
FEEDERS
ASSOCIATION**

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Cattlemen's Beef Board
9000 E. Nichols Ave, Ste 215
Centennial, CO 80112

Dear Beef Board Member:

The Texas Cattle Feeders Association (TCFA) board of directors met June 24 and, after much discussion, voted unanimously to request the immediate resignations or terminations of CBB Chairman Tom Jones and CEO Tom Ramey, due to unethical behavior and failed leadership during the past several months. Both leaders have admitted to this wrongdoing and can no longer provide the trusted leadership required and expected by cattle producers to effectively implement the national beef checkoff program.

TCFA represents cattle feeders in Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico, and our members annually invest more than \$6.5 million dollars with state beef councils and the board. Our members expect and demand that the checkoff program be implemented with honesty and integrity.

We are very troubled by the attempts of the chairman, CEO and other beef board members in recent months to destroy the longstanding and effective partnerships with other beef industry organizations, including the important checks and balances between state and federal checkoff programs established by Congress in the 1985 Act and adopted by cattle producers in the 1986 referendum. It is primarily this shared responsibility and division of control between the state beef councils and CBB that convinced cattle producers to adopt the current national checkoff program after rejecting two previous proposals that would have placed an unacceptable level of control in the hands of a national board.

The most recent effort was the failed attempt by the chairman and CEO to gain board adoption by electronic vote of the Roles and Responsibilities proposals that would dramatically alter program planning, implementation and oversight as provided in the current program. We applaud board members for recognizing and rejecting this inappropriate effort, and we will provide specific comments on these concerns in a separate letter.

It is time to end these divisive actions and focus on investing cattle producer dollars in programs developed through careful planning and coordination at the state and national level. It is apparent this can only happen under new leadership! We urge you to take this requested action now.

Sincerely,

Chairman