



**NATIONAL CATTLEMEN'S BEEF ASSOCIATION**

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July 7, 2009

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
328 A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Chambliss:

On behalf of the over 230,000 direct and affiliated members of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), we are writing to thank you for placing a hold on the nomination of Cass R. Sunstein to be the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) within the Office of Management and Budget. We are asking that you maintain your hold on the nomination in order to prevent Mr. Sunstein from ascending to this position that some term a "regulatory czar."

As OIRA Administrator, Mr. Sunstein will review, approve, reject, or change all regulations promulgated by the Obama Administration, thus giving him great power to influence these regulations. Mr. Sunstein's long history and body of work as an animal rights advocate is very concerning to cattle producers. In a book he co-edited and contributed to titled *Animal Rights: Current Debates and New Directions*, Mr. Sunstein states that "Animals should be permitted to bring suit, with human beings as their representatives...Any animals that are entitled to bring suit would be represented by (human) counsel, who would owe guardian-like obligations and make decisions, subject to those obligations, on their clients' behalf." There are several other examples of his anti-animal agriculture stance displayed in assorted papers and presentations, and he was one of the organizers of the 2004 Chicago Project on Animal Treatment Principles. We feel this goes beyond actions that might be required in his position as a law professor and rather shows deep personal feelings against animal agriculture.

While Mr. Sunstein may be otherwise qualified for this job, his personal views are squarely against everything hard working cattlemen do each and every day to feed our country. We do not believe that he could separate his personal feelings from his official duties, and we are concerned that his personal feelings would translate into needless anti-livestock regulations without regard to sound science or proven animal production practices. His blatant work against our way of life should be enough to take him out of the running for this position.

We thank you for your hold and ask that you maintain that hold in support of America's cattle ranching and farming families. We encourage other Senators from both sides of the aisle to join you and ask that if Mr. Sunstein's nomination indeed comes to a vote, the Senate vote against him.

Thank you for your continued support of American agriculture.

Sincerely,

Gary Voogt  
President

cc: The Honorable Tom Harkin – Chairman, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
The Honorable Harry Reid – Majority Leader, United States Senate  
The Honorable Mitch McConnell – Minority Leader, United States Senate

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