



June 14, 2017

Commissioner Jim Reese
Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry
2800 N. Lincoln Blvd
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Commissioner Reese,

On behalf of the membership of American Farmers & Ranchers (AFR), I offer our full support for the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association's (OCA) petition to conduct a state assessment referendum on the creation of a state beef checkoff. We believe OCA is representing the wishes of the majority of Oklahoma beef producers and that the signatures calling for a referendum were collected with integrity.

AFR members all over the state participated in this signature collection process alongside OCA. At county meetings and rural gatherings in every corner of Oklahoma we heard support for this effort. Our grassroots organizational policy supports the beef checkoff and its mission of market promotion, research, nutrition, product safety and education.

Now is the time for us to invest in our industry and take steps to ensure a robust marketing and education platform continues for future generations of beef producers. We appreciate your positive consideration of this critical proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terry L. Detrick', is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Terry L. Detrick
President, American Farmers & Ranchers