



June 7, 2017

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

Re: June 14 Hearing on Petition to Conduct a Referendum for a State Beef Checkoff

Dear Secretary Reese,

Oklahoma Farm Bureau is a general farm organization with more than 90,000 member families, representing farmers and ranchers with operations of all sizes who grow and raise a wide variety of crops and livestock. Thousands of OKFB members raise cattle. Oklahoma consistently ranks in the top five cattle producing states in the nation.

As a true grassroots organization, OKFB has policy supporting a state beef checkoff as follows, *"We support the creation of a state beef checkoff of \$1 per head that is refundable and will be administered and controlled by the Oklahoma Beef Council."*

OKFB has been involved in the referendum petition process from its inception and believes it conforms to the purposes and provisions of the Oklahoma Commodity Research Enhancement Act.

We will be sharing the referendum details with OKFB members so they may participate. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Marla R. Peek'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marla R. Peek
Director of Regulatory Affairs

cc: OKFB Board of Directors