



Minnesota Buffalo Association

6819 Industrial Road, Saginaw, MN 55779

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March 28, 1999

FSIS Docket Clerk, Docket #98-052P
Room 102-Cotton Annex Building
FSIS, USDA
Washington, DC 20250-3700

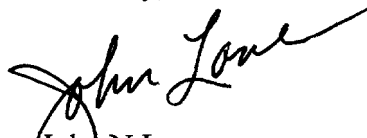
98-052P
98-052P-18
John N. Lane

Dear Sir:

The Minnesota Buffalo Association held our annual convention and Board of Directors meeting 20 March 1999. The Board of Directors unanimously opposed a price increase in voluntary meat inspection fees as contemplated by USDA.

The proposed price increase regulating one sector of an agricultural economy already reeling from depressed prices is particularly untimely. We disagree with the proposed rule statement that "small establishments would not be affected adversely by the proposed fee increases." The Minnesota Buffalo Association members are all "small establishments." This rule will have a direct, negative impact on our members.

Sincerely,



John N Lane
President, MnBA

CC:

Senators Grams, Wellstone
Representative Oberstar
National Bison Association
North American Bison Coop