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**KENTUCKY BISON CO.**

Steve Wilson      4801 Greenhaven Lane      Goshen, Kentucky 40026      (502) 222-4451

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March 17, 1999

98-052P  
98-052P-2  
Amil Kleinert

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

Dear Sirs:

Memphis Meat Processing in conjunction with Kentucky Bison Co. is a small USDA regulated meat processing plant. We are just getting started with Bison processing.

Beef and Pork inspections are not imposed by USDA fees. As Bison are becoming accepted by the general public, Bison products are at a disadvantage with the current added cost of inspections. The higher cost to produce Bison coupled with a possible increase in inspection fees does not seem warranted. Even if an increase were justified, the proposed raise of 12% in fees, to offset a 3.1% pay increase for inspectors and a 1.9% rate of inflation, is high.

This ruling will have a detrimental effect on small establishments trying to develop a growing market.

Sincerely,



Amil Kleinert  
Vice President  
Kentucky Bison Co.

cc: Sam Albrecht - NBA

AK/blh