



FINE MEAT PRODUCTS

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KOEGEL MEATS, INC. • 3400 W. BRISTOL RD. • FLINT, MI 48507 • PHONE (810) 238-3685 • FAX (810) 238-2467

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April 28, 2004

FSIS Docket Clerk

RE: Docket No. 03-0255IF

Dear Sir or Madam:

I'm writing to express concern about the above interim final rule. Last year our company produced approximately 3.3 million pounds of product utilizing beef casings. This represents six million dollars in sales or one quarter of our sales. Not allowing Koegel to use beef casings jeopardizes this business as well as our competitor's business.

We have experimented with other types of casings but nothing works as well as the beef casings. Because of our concern over the loss of business and the fact that there are no good casing alternatives, we respectfully request that the interim final rule be rescinded and replaced with a rule that would allow the use of beef casings.

The use of beef casings should be allowed even if the casings come from minimal risk BSE countries as long as the distal ileum portion of the small intestine is removed.

The use of the entire small intestine should be allowed if the casings come from countries classified as BSE free. Currently, most of our casing come from Brazil which is, to my knowledge, still BSE free.

I hope that a sensible decision can be made using scientific standards and other countries as a guide.

If you have any questions please call.

Sincerely,

John C. Koegel

Made Up To a Quality . . . Not Down To a Price !