



# National Bison Association

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300 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20250-3700

99-045P-4  
Samuel W. Albrecht

December 7, 1999

The National Bison Association opposes the proposed increase in voluntary meat inspection fees. Bison producers are already at an economic disadvantage when competing with meat which receives free inspection. As the public becomes increasingly concerned regarding safe food, meat inspection is important to the acceptance of **our** product.

This is the second price increase we have seen in the past year. Please stop! These excessive fees could affect a producer's decision to obtain inspection on the products he sells to the public.

We disagree with the proposed rule statement that "small establishments would not be affected adversely by the proposed fee increases." **Our** industry is comprised of "small establishments" when compared to the size of beef, pork or chicken. This rule will have a direct, negative impact on our producers and our industry.

The National Bison Association represents over 2,300 bison producers who raise 250,000 head of bison in all **50** states.

Sincerely,

Samuel W. Albrecht  
Executive Director