

W O R C

Western Organization of Resource Councils

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Senate Completes Outsourcing of American Cowboy Media Statement

The U.S. Senate approved today a trade agreement with Australia, despite concerns about the impact on family farmers and ranchers.

Gilles Stockton issued the following statement on behalf of WORC. Stockton is a rancher from Grass Range, Mont., and is chair of WORC's Trade Team.

WORC is a network of grassroots organizations representing farmers and ranchers in Wyoming, Montana, South Dakota, North Dakota, Colorado, Idaho, and Oregon.

STATEMENT by WORC

Congress has now traded away the American Cowboy. Congress, the administration, and the trade negotiators did so with little input from some of the most affected people, the men and women of this country who raise cattle. To have our elected officials outsource your livelihood is unacceptable. That's not democracy.

Now we're inviting the world's largest exporter of beef to undercut our family ranchers. The beneficiaries of this agreement are the multi-national meatpackers. The agreement will increase the pricing power and fatten the profits of these meatpackers at the expense of family ranchers, rural communities, and consumers.

Moreover, this agreement will contribute to the continued loss of family farmers and ranchers and jobs in America's rural communities. Isn't the loss of nearly 86,500 farmers and ranchers enough?

It's time for our policy makers to change course and create a trade policy that strengthens, not weakens, the public health, environment, food sovereignty, working conditions, labor rights, and transparent, competitive market principles of this country and all countries. The Australia trade agreement does not.

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