Any new, artificial barriers to imports, disrupting current balances of supply and demand, would severely penalize the consumer by increasing costs unnecessarily, thereby raising retail prices. No one would profit under such conditions.

For the foregoing reasons the Meat Importers' Council, Inc. strongly opposes H.R. 9475 and any similar legislative proposals. Unnecessary and undesirable meat import quota controls would limit consumer choice of meat food products, injure cattlemen, have no favorable effect on feeders, and would conflict with American trade policies. It is imperative that all segments of our meat industry recognize that restrictions on imports of manufacturing meats would penalize those consumers who can least afford to pay more for staple food products, or contribute to the support of special interests.

Accordingly, it is urged that the Committee on Ways and Means and Congress reject meat import quotas as contrary to our national interests.

Respectfully submitted,

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