MEAT-O-MAT INC.,
Brooklyn, N.Y., June 12, 1968.

Mr. JOHN M. MARTIN, Jr.,
Chief Counsel, Ways and Means Committee,
House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: More than 80% of my business is dependent on the availability of imported beef. If my source of supply was cut off or even curtailed I would be compelled to go out of business.

There is not enough local beef of the type needed for my products to allow me to continue to operate. The local supplies that are available to me are inferior and much higher in price than imported meat.

In the past, when bills of this nature were presented, whether they became law or not, the prices of imported beef were increased. This was due to the insecurity generated amongst our allies. The countries which produced this meat were compelled to look for other markets elsewhere because of the uncertainty. This shortened the supply available in the U.S. and forced prices up.

At a time like this, when our country appears to be in a "mess", our legislators should be concentrating on solutions rather than creating problems for our nation in order to benefit a special interest minority.

Respectfully yours,

N. FRIEDSON.

OCOMA FOODS CO.,
Omaha, Nebr., May 31, 1968.

Re H.R. 9475 and S. 1588 (import quota bills).

Hon. WILBUR D. MILLS,
Chairman, House Ways and Means Committee, House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

(Attention Mr. John M. Martin, Jr.),

DEAR SIR: Ocoma Foods Company is a consumer of 1,500,000 lbs. of commercial grade beef in its processing and marketing of convenience dinners and meat pies. These are both foods which are processed with the propose of providing the American consumer with a low-cost product. Ocoma Foods Company purchases imported beef because of the difference in quality and cost of such beef from that which is domestically produced.

Accordingly, Ocoma hereby makes this objection to HR. 9475, and S. 1588 and other proposals to amend Public Law 88–482 S. 2, to reduce the annual quota of the allowable importation of beef from 725,400,000 pounds to 585,500,000 pounds. The avowed purpose of this proposed legislation is to increase the demand for domestic cattle. However, we have determined that the supply of commercial grade beef is insufficient to make available such meat at a cost which is sufficiently low to maintain a price for the product which is acceptable to the ultimate consumer. We question whether the supply of domestic commercial grade beef will be available after the passage of the proposed legislation in sufficient quantities to meet the demand thus created for such product. Is the present price of domestic beef now so low that it is producing a burden to the meat industry?

Ocoma has discovered that it is necessary to utilize commercial grade beef in processing its food products because such grade produces a better finished product than a higher grade beef. It has been determined that when higher grade beef is used, the processing results in serious deterioration to the meat.

Ocoma has also discovered that domestically produced commercial grade beef produces more waste than imported beef. As a result the cost of domestic beef to a food processor, is higher. Of course, the initial cost of domestic beef to a food processor is higher than the cost of imported beef.

An an example, let us examine the relative costs between domestic and imported beef or use in convenience dinners produced by Ocoma Foods Company. Inasmuch as the imported beef is purchased in a cooked state, the costs have been adjusted to reflect the cooking process for domestic meat:

COMMERCIAL GRADE BEEF

	Per pound
Domestic	$1.17
Imported	.93