



Expanding Local Meat Processing Act

U.S. Senators Ben Ray Luján (D-N.M.) and Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), members of the Senate Agriculture Committee, have introduced **the bipartisan and bicameral Expanding Local Meat Processing Act** to increase local small to medium sized meat processing capacity by allowing livestock auction market owners (sale barns) to invest in small and regional packing facilities. U.S. Representatives Mark Alford (R-Mo.) and Jimmy Panetta (D-Calif.) introduced companion legislation in the U.S. House.

This legislation:

- Directs the Secretary of Agriculture to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act to allow livestock auction market owners to hold ownership in, finance, or participate in the management or operation of a meat packing entity with cumulative slaughter capacity caps in place that exclude investment in the top 10 largest meat packers.

Due to an outdated regulation, livestock auction markets, sometimes called sale barns, are not currently able to own or invest in the management or operation of a packing plant or meat marketing business. Livestock auctions are a critical component of the beef supply chain, moving cattle transparently between segments as they head toward consumers' plates. This legislation recognizes the role that livestock auctions play and is essential in removing this unnecessary barrier in the cattle industry in order to expand much needed local meat processing capacity.

These bills are supported by Livestock Marketing Association (LMA), National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), United States Cattlemen's Association (USCA), National Pork Producers Council (NPPC), and American Sheep Industry Association (ASI).

If you have questions or are interested in cosponsoring please contact Jared Henderson, Senior Policy Advisor for US Senator Ben Ray Luján, at jared_henderson@lujan.senate.gov or (202) 224-6621.