

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
39th DISTRICT
KIRK PEARSON

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives

APPROPRIATIONS
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONS
RANKING MEMBER
SELECT COMMITTEE -:
ON HOOD CANAL
RANKING MEMBER

April 18, 2006

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear President Bush:

I am writing you regarding the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) which I believe to be an unnecessary and burdensome increase in the size and role of the Federal Government.

Suppliers of beef, pork, lamb, and poultry often buy their animals from small farmers, farmers who work hard to raise healthy marketable animals. Agribusiness suppliers are of course free to buy or not buy from any farmer. Here, at the point where an animal enters the food chain is where responsibility, security, and regulatory control should be focused. Not on the already overburdened small farmer.

This issue was first brought to my attention by two of my constituents, Celeste Bishop and Pat Showalter. Both Pat and Celeste raise small numbers of Kinder Goats for personal enjoyment. It is impossible to see how forcing them, and others like them, to comply with the NAIS will protect food safety in our nation.

It is my request that you order the United States Department of Agriculture to forgo implementation of the NAIS program, or alternatively, to delay the issuance of any rules related to NAIS to give our nations small farmers more opportunity to learn about the NAIS program, and to comment upon it.

Sincerely,



Kirk Pearson