

May 28, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H. R. 7656 - Beef Research and Information Act. This bill authorizes cattle producers to establish, finance, and carry out a coordinated program of research, producer and consumer education, and promotion to improve, maintain and develop markets for their products.

H. R. 7656 will authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a 68-member Beef Board composed of cattle producers. Establishment of the Beef Board or any order issued under this Act would require approval through a beef producer referendum in which (a) at least 50 percent of the registered producers of cattle participated and (b) not less than two-thirds of the producers voting favored the order. The Beef Board and orders administered by it would assist cattle producers in establishing, financing, and carrying out a program of research, producer and consumer education, and promotion to improve, maintain, and develop markets for their products. Orders could be suspended or terminated.

The program would be financed entirely by a producer paid assessment of not to exceed one-half of one percent of the live animal value levied on each transaction where a producer sells or otherwise transfers ownership of cattle.

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