



## New Markets for State-Inspected Meat and Poultry Act

Senators Rounds and King are preparing to reintroduce the *New Markets for State-Inspected Meat and Poultry Act* in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress. This legislation would allow meat and poultry products inspected by USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) approved state Meat and Poultry Inspection (MPI) programs to be sold across state lines.

There are three types of meat and poultry inspection programs for products sold for human consumption:

- **Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) federal inspection:** Federally inspected meat is allowed to be sold across state lines and exported. All facilities that utilize the federal program receive the federal inspection stamp.
- **Cooperative Interstate Shipment (CIS) Program:** CIS inspected products are treated as federally inspected—the CIS program uses state inspectors who have been trained to conduct federal inspections. CIS inspected products are sold with the federal inspection stamp and are allowed to be sold across state lines and exported. Only ten states have opted to establish a CIS program.
- **FSIS approved Meat and Poultry Inspection (MPI) programs:** 29 States have a USDA-FSIS approved MPI program, which provides inspection on meat and/or poultry. Many small processors utilize this inspection program. However, meat and poultry products processed at FSIS approved MPI facilities do not receive the federal inspection stamp, rather the stamp is associated with the individual state—therefore the product is not allowed to be sold across state lines or exported.

Currently, there are 29 states with state MPI programs "at least equal to" requirements imposed under the Federal Meat and Poultry Products Inspection Acts and the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act of 1978. FSIS conducts annual comprehensive reviews of state MPI programs and their requirements—in addition to enforcing those requirements—with respect to slaughter, preparation, processing, storage, handling and distribution of livestock carcasses and parts, meat and meat food products as well as poultry products.

Despite these safety measures, meat and poultry products processed at these USDA-FSIS approved state MPI inspected facilities are not allowed to be sold across state lines.

### **What this bill doesn't do:**

- This bill does not eliminate or phase out the CIS program—the facilities currently operating across the ten states that utilize this program can continue as is.
- This bill does not explicitly allow for products inspected by state MPI programs to be exported.
  - Generally, foreign governments work with the U.S. to reach import agreements for inspection equivalency. For example, under the U.S. meat and poultry equivalency, FSIS works with the competent national food safety authority to establish equivalency. FSIS also grants equivalency to foreign countries.
  - While it is highly likely that foreign governments would still require federal inspection for exports, foreign governments could theoretically enter into an agreement with an individual state at some point in the future.

If you have any questions about the bill, please reach out to Senator Rounds' Senior Agriculture Advisor, Michael Brooks ([michael\\_brooks@rounds.senate.gov](mailto:michael_brooks@rounds.senate.gov)).