

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor,

There have probably been more false statements made about the Beeferendum in the press and by producers than ever made about any other program. It is not a government program, not a tax, it is workable as far as collections are concerned, and it is needed in this age of increasing criticism of all animal products, milk and butter, as well as beef and pork.

No one else is going to promote our products for us - and consumer education programs on the dietary value of beef are needed. It is becoming more and more difficult to answer the large numbers of falsely written and distorted criticisms of beef as a food and as an industry.

We have a great industry - the Beeferendum can

provide money for us to get on the offensive and meet our critics head-on.

Who's supposed to do this - not the retailer who will sell anything as long as there's a mark-up.

Not the government, especially since many of the governmental agencies are expressing concern that Americans are eating too much animal products, and beef especially.

This will probably be the last chance for such a program - your vote on the Beeferendum is too important to be based on misinterpretation and misstatements. Think about the facts - then vote your conscience.

L.L. Wilson
State College, PA

Dear Editor,
I am a cattle feeder who is concerned about the future of the cattle industry. The passage of the Beeferendum is essential for the survival of this industry.

The Beeferendum is a self-help program that would provide the funds to fight anti-beef propoganda, promote the nutritional value of beef, combat beef substitutes, counter extremes of the cattle cycle, expand foreign markets, and increase demand for beef.

The assessment rate will be 2/10 of 1 percent (20 cents per \$100) of the value of cattle.

It will be a value-added plan so that anyone who owns the animal will pay his fair share on the value he adds.

Breeding cattle and dairy cows will be exempted from assessment until they are slaughtered. A producer may get a refund upon request.

The program will be administered by the Beef Board comprised of 60 cattlemen nominated by state or regional cattle organizations and approved by the Secretary of Agriculture.

My fellow cattlemen,

please vote "YES" for the Beeferendum.

J. Paul Espy
Tyrone

Dear Editor,

It appears that many people have been under a misapprehension concerning the proposed designation of French Creek in Chester County as a State Scenic River in believing that the French Creek legislation would include a state power of eminent domain and other state regulatory powers. However, the true facts are quite to the contrary. From the start, the draft legislation for French Creek expressly rescinded such powers.

Those of us in the French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust who worked on the original studies to see if French Creek qualified as a Scenic River, were opposed to using eminent domain as the basic policy of the Trust since it was incorporated in 1967 has been against condemnation for scenic purposes. Thus the Trust insisted from the very beginning that Scenic River Designation should not involve state condemnation or any other state regulatory powers. These restriction on

state action were agreed to by the Department of Environmental Resources and an express provision to this end was inserted in the draft legislation.

During my eight years in the Pennsylvania State Legislature, I was a member of the House Agriculture Committee which took an active part in fighting condemnation of farm lands, for example the Barley Farm in Lancaster County. I personally sponsored many bills to protect farmers against eminent domain. As owner and operator of a dairy farm myself, I am naturally concerned with this issue.

Both the Trust and I welcomed the stand of the Grange in opposition to eminent domain, and the recent Grange sponsored meeting regarding French Creek which was the subject of Lancaster Farming articles. This meeting was helpful in dispelling the concerns of some landowners which apparently had arisen from unfounded rumors. For example, it had been suggested to them that if French Creek became a Scenic River, the public would be permitted to come

on private property, or that farmers would lose the right to irrigate or to put up buildings less than two hundred yards from the creek. As was brought out at the meeting, these rumors were untrue.

Since the rescision of state paramount power regarding French Creek had been agreed to previously, further action on behalf of the French Creek landowners was really unnecessary, and the positive result of the meeting was primarily to reassure the public. In addition, however, the State Grange is also joining with DER to sponsor further legislation removing the threat of eminent domain in connection with all future scenic river designations. This certainly is a praiseworthy development.

Samuel W. Morris
French and Pickering
Creeks
Conservation Trust
Former State Legislator

FFA champions career education in agriculture, agribusiness and natural resources.

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