



**Chairman Glenn “GT” Thompson**  
**Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry**  
**A Review of Animal Agriculture Stakeholder Priorities**  
**Opening Statement**  
**May 17, 2023**

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**Remarks as prepared for delivery:**

“Good morning and thank you to Chairman Mann and Ranking Member Costa for convening today’s hearing.

“And more importantly, thank you to our witnesses who have taken time out of your busy schedules to appear before us today—I look forward to hearing from each of you.

“And as a fellow Pennsylvanian, I am especially proud to have Ms. Laurie Hubbard representing not only the sheep industry, but the Keystone State on today’s panel.

“As Mr. Mann noted in his statement, my colleagues and I have had the opportunity to hear from a variety of livestock stakeholders on our travels across the country.

“But given the size and diversity of the livestock industry, I am glad we are making time for a deeper dive into the issues facing the industry’s various segments.

“Especially as we head into a Farm Bill, we need a full picture of on-the-ground conditions and an honest assessment of what is and isn’t working to ensure we appropriately arm producers with the tools they need for success in the coming years.

“And with the impending expiration of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting program, or LMR, I also look forward to your thoughts on any necessary programmatic changes and the possibility of a multi-year reauthorization to provide longer-term certainty.

“Just as much as I want to hear your priorities for *inclusion* in upcoming legislation, sometimes I know it is even more important that Congress understand what you want kept *out* and why. So, I also welcome your expertise and wisdom on avoiding legislative pitfalls as we navigate this process.

“Speaking of pitfalls, the livestock and protein processing sectors are no strangers to unwarranted regulatory assault, and I would like to insert for the record a recent [Wall Street Journal op-ed](#) entitled “Big Meat Conspiracy Theory Unravels” that articulates how the Biden Administration simply got it wrong when pointing the finger at the packing industry for food inflation.

“In addition to the Administration’s continued blame game with industry, I remain concerned with the Administration’s insistence on contentious Packers and Stockyards regulations, and a lack of certainty regarding our pork and poultry processors’ ability to efficiently operate at speeds proven safe and reliable for decades.

“And the Supreme Court’s disappointing decision on Proposition 12 threatens to even further complicate the regulatory landscape.

“I appreciate your partnership as we continue to explore potential solutions to these and a variety of other issues that will surely be highlighted in today’s discussion.

“Thank you, and I yield back.”