

A Resolution of the Commissioners Court of the County of _____, _____, Opposing the Proposed National Animal Identification System

WHEREAS the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is proposing a National Animal Identification System (NAIS), the stated purpose of which is to safeguard animal health by providing 48-hour traceback of all animal movements;

WHEREAS the USDA has stated that the program is voluntary at the federal level, but is continuing to fund mandatory and coercive State programs;

WHEREAS the NAIS would apply to every individual who owns even one horse, chicken, cow, goat, sheep, pig, elk, deer, or other livestock or exotic livestock;

WHEREAS the NAIS involves premises registration, animal identification and animal tracking;

WHEREAS the USDA has not addressed the many technological and practical barriers to implementing the NAIS;

WHEREAS the effectiveness of the NAIS in safeguarding animal health has not been evaluated and is in question;

WHEREAS the NAIS would impose significant costs, in both time and money, on animal owners;

WHEREAS the NAIS is likely to have many unintended consequences on small farms, related businesses, the companion-animal industry, and thousands of private citizens who own animals for companionship, recreation, and subsistence;

WHEREAS neither the USDA nor the State agency have performed a cost-benefit analysis of the NAIS;

WHEREAS the USDA's legal authority to implement the NAIS is in question;

WHEREAS the constitutionality of the NAIS is in question;

WHEREAS the State Legislature is considering a statute to implement NAIS/ the State Agriculture Department has adopted regulations/ whatever your state's status is;

WHEREAS the NAIS would require hundreds of thousands of people and businesses to register their property and homes;

WHEREAS the NAIS would negatively impact individuals, businesses, rural communities, and the entire state;

BE IT RESOLVED that the County of _____ opposes the implementation of any portion of a mandatory national animal identification system, including mandatory premises registration or coercive measures to increase participation in NAIS, in the State of _____.

Approved this ____ day _____, 2006
Commissioners Court of _____ County, _____