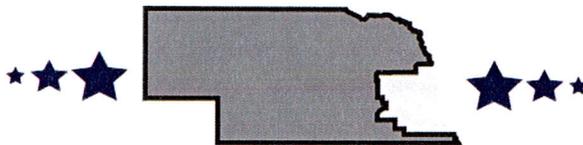


# PENNER



FOR CONGRESS  
3rd DISTRICT 1st

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## PENNER TO SUPPORT COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING (COOL)

Aurora, NE. October 17, 2017– To jumpstart Nebraska’s ailing rural economy, 3<sup>rd</sup> District Congressional Republican Candidate, Kirk Penner of Aurora, calls for the reinstatement of mandatory Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) for beef. Mandatory COOL requires origin labels on beef to list the country or countries where the animal was born, raised and slaughtered. Without mandatory COOL, packers are allowed to remove country of origin labels and marks from the imported beef, cut or repackage the imported beef or slaughter the imported animal and then label the product a “Product of the U.S.A.” regardless of where the beef originated or where the animal was born or raised.

Mr. Penner’s opponent, career politician Adrian Smith, co-sponsored bill H.R. 2393 to repeal COOL in 2015, siding with large multi-national packers. Mr. Smith has been one of the House of Representatives largest recipients of campaign contributions from the world’s largest beef packer, JBS of Brazil. In June, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue, announced the suspension of imports of all fresh beef from Brazil because of recurring concerns about the safety of the products intended for the American market. Brazilian police raided the offices of JBS and other meatpackers following an investigation into alleged bribery of health officials. The probe uncovered evidence that meatpackers bribed inspectors and politicians to subvert food inspections of its plants and to overlook unsanitary practices, such as processing rotten meat, disguising rot by adding ascorbic acid to products, modifying expiration dates and repackaging expired products, using pig heads and spoiled meat to make sausages and running plants with traces of salmonella. Without mandatory COOL, the contaminated Brazilian beef could be labeled “Product of the U.S.A” if it is handled in a U.S. processing plant before being sold to the general public, public schools, hospitals and long term facilities all over the United States.

Nebraska’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District is the largest cow/calf district in the United States and their operations have suffered financially as result of Mr. Smith’s vote.

“Consumers should be able to choose beef for their families that is born, raised and harvested in the United States. Currently, you can visit the store, purchase beef labeled “Product of the U.S.A.”, and it actually might be beef from outside the United States. To me that is horrifying”.

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Gregg Holliday at 402-981-5245 or email at [gregg@pennercongress.com](mailto:gregg@pennercongress.com).