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VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on  
Economic Opportunity

OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT  
REFORM COMMITTEE

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April 20, 2012

The Honorable Darrell Issa  
Chairman  
House Committee on Oversight and  
Government Reform  
2157 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Elijah Cummings  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Oversight and  
Government Reform  
2471 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Issa and Ranking Member Cummings:

As you know, there has been significant controversy surrounding claims made in the media about lean, finely textured beef (LFTB). The public discussion regarding LFTB followed a series of reports on ABC News which were critical of companies such as Beef Products, Inc. (BPI). In addition to ABC News, other public figures, such as celebrity chef Jamie Oliver, have perpetuated the criticisms of LFTB. Following these reports hundreds of workers were laid off including over 200 workers from BPI's Waterloo, Iowa facility.

I strongly urge the Committee to conduct hearings and investigate these recent claims. I encourage the Committee to invite all sides to participate in this hearing including, but not limited to, the appropriate producers from ABC News, recognized food safety experts, celebrity chef Jamie Oliver and workers from BPI. Our constituents deserve accurate information about the products they consume and BPI's workers deserve an opportunity to answer their critics.

As a father of three, I share every parent's concern about what their kids eat. Food choices must be made based on nutrition and safety and consumers are right to demand that their food supply is safe. I look forward to working with you on this important issue so that accurate information is available to consumers for this and other foods. Thanks again.

Sincerely,

  
Bruce Braley