

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WASHINGTON (Dec. 26, 2012) – [National Farmers Union](#) (NFU) and more than 40 farming, rural and agricultural organizations sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) last week asking for an expanded investigation into a proposal made by food processing company JBS USA to acquire two U.S.-based beef packing plants owned by Canadian-based XL Four Star Beef. “We firmly believe that this proposed merger would reduce competition and seriously harm both cattle producers and consumers,” the letter states. “We therefore request that no early termination of the antitrust evaluation regarding the acquisition of the two U.S.-based beef packing plants be granted and that the Justice Department make a second request for information to extend the investigation.”

In 2008, the DOJ initiated antitrust enforcement action that prevented JBS USA from acquiring National Beef Packing Company, the fourth largest beef packer in the U.S.

“The Justice Department must not retreat from the historically significant effort it started in 2008 to curb the pervasive erosion of competition in both the U.S. cattle market and the consumers’ beef market,” the letter notes.

In its letter, the group urges the DOJ to initiate an extension of the merger waiting period to provide additional time for review of the merger, as well as requesting further information including cattle procurement practices, competition levels and the history of JBS’s previous acquisitions of closed packing plants.

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to view letter.

National Farmers Union has been working since 1902 to protect and enhance the economic well-being and quality of life for family farmers, ranchers and rural communities through advocating grassroots-driven policy positions adopted by its membership.

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