

Two Bits



Julie Ellingson, Executive Vice President St. Anthony



I just got back from a few days in Washington, D.C., where cattle producers from across the country gathered for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association's Legislative Conference at what feels like a pivotal time for agriculture. You could sense it in the conversations in meeting rooms, in the crowded hallways on Capitol Hill and even in the tone of the policymakers themselves.

The long-anticipated farm bill — also referred to as “the skinny farm bill” or “Farm Bill 2.0,” since many of the traditional farm bill provisions were already included in last summer's One Big Beautiful Bill — could see action in the House as early as this week. For the beef industry, it's a vehicle for several priorities. Among those is a fix related to California's Proposition 12, an issue that continues to create uncertainty and market disruption for producers and interferes with interstate commerce.

The bill text also includes provisions that aim to improve implementation of conservation programs; expand access to credit; increase outdated agricultural loan limits; amend veterinary grant programs to relieve ongoing rural veterinary shortages; and bolster custom-exempt processing facilities.

We will share more highlights from the Legislative Conference in our next issue.

Spending time in Washington is always a reminder of just how central that city is not only to our nation, but to the broader world. Every hallway holds a piece of history, and every office carries the weight of decisions that affect people far beyond its walls. It's easy to get frustrated with the dysfunction we often see play out, and there's no shortage of that. In fact, the night after we returned home, news broke of the assassination attempt at the White House Correspondents' Dinner that underscored just how tense and divided the current climate can be.

Yet, even with those sobering realities, there's something undeniably inspiring about being there. You're re-

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The NDSA attended the National Cattlemen's Beef Association's Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., April 22-24.