

## Declaration by Glen Mast

I, Glen Mast, certify and state as follows:

My name is Glen H. Mast. I reside in the central Lower Peninsula of Michigan. I am a member of the Old Order Amish Church, and a dairy farmer since 1992. I practice organic methods of farming with horses on a small farm. My family is very involved with the work on the farm. I believe that small farms are capable of growing nutrient dense food for the benefit of our neighbors and communities at large.

Several hundred years ago our forefathers left the old country because of persecution and came to America, the land of the free, a country where people could worship God as their conscience dictated. I regard the implementation of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) as a threat to our Amish way of life, a threat to the freedoms our forefathers were looking for.

Our idea of farming includes animal husbandry and in such a manner that our children and grandchildren can benefit from our labors. With the encroachment of the NAIS and similar programs people tend to lose interest in raising livestock because of the regulations involved.

We are a people who live close to the land. Most of us raise livestock, normally several kinds of livestock are found on one farm. It is not unusual for an Amish family farm to be in the same family for several generations. Families working together towards one common goal is regarded as the ideal way of life among the Amish.

In Genesis 1, verses 25 and 26 of the Holy Bible we find: "And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and everything that creepeth upon the earth after his kind; and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and the over the fowl of the air and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth".

I believe God has given us certain rights of 'dominion of cattle' and living things and I regard the NAIS as an infringement of those rights because of the required registrations and regulations. NAIS is a burden to the God-given act of owning livestock. I regard NAIS as a violation of our free exercise of religion and contrary to the warnings of the Holy Bible. I believe in the return of Jesus as stated in Revelations.

In Rev. 13, verses 16 and 17: "And he causeth all both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond to receive a mark (number) in their right hand or in their foreheads; And that no man might buy and sell save he that had the mark or the name of the beast or the number of his name." I believe NAIS is a part of this 'mark of the beast' referred to in Revelations.

Under the new NAIS requirements, I am told I need a Premise Identification Number (PIN). This PIN would be my "mark". Also each head of livestock would need an individual Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tag obtained only with the PIN. Thus I am required to have a "mark of the beast" to "buy and sell" as foretold in Revelations. By accepting this "mark of the beast", I would be violating my conscience and also going against our Amish Church Elder's Council. Our church elders view the computer and other modern inventions as worldly and not edifying to our quiet way of life.

In Rev. 14, verses 9 and 10 we find a warning: "If any man worship the beast and his image and receive his mark (number) in his forehead or in his hand the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God". I choose to heed this warning. Accepting this NAIS requirement of a PIN would be a direct conflict to what the Holy Bible teaches and warns me not to do.

In Rev. 22, verse 7 we find: "Behold I come quickly: Blesses is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book". My desires and intentions are to keep and protect the sayings of this book.

In Rev. 22, verse 14 we find: "Blessed are they that do His commandments that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city." When Jesus returns to Earth to claim His own, I want to be found with a clear conscience.

Because of my faith in Jesus and my belief in His Word, I am submitting this declaration for the purpose of presenting my views about NAIS and to plead for our rights of the free exercise of religion under the Constitution of the United States and to preserve and protect our Amish way of life.

I declare, to the best of my knowledge, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Glen H Mast

Signed: Glen H. Mast

6-2-08

Date

Notary public State of Michigan,

County of Isabella

My commission expires 10-12-2013

Affirmed to and subscribed before me in my presence, this day June 2nd, 2008

by Glen H. Mast.

Vicki S. Moulter

Signature Notary Public

