

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

April 17, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue  
Secretary of Agriculture  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

We write to request your agency consider the beef industry during ongoing and future discussions of any loss recovery programs. The effects of the coronavirus (COVID-19) have been felt by all facets of the U.S. agricultural economy. As of April 8, 2020, the financial losses sustained by the United States Beef Cattle Industry are estimated at \$13.6 billion.<sup>1</sup> Given the complexity of the entire cattle industry, these losses are felt throughout the country.

Within the primary production for the industry, Cow-Calf sector anticipates estimated 2020 losses of \$111.91 per head of cattle. Since this production is year-round and a long-term investment, the total losses and future impact estimates are \$247.15 per head for each mature breeding animal. Production within the stocking and backgrounding sector anticipate an average loss of nearly \$156 per head of cattle. Lastly, the feedlot sector expects a decrease in value for animals prior to the COVID-19 and through the third quarter of 2020. AS OF February 1, these losses will be approximately \$206 per head for all cattle on feed.

Given these significant losses within the industry, we ask your full and fair consideration for the inclusion of the cattle beef industry during any ongoing and future discussions for any loss recovery programs.

Sincerely,



Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



Ted S. Yoho, DVM  
Member of Congress



Dusty Johnson  
Member of Congress



Al Lawson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

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<sup>1</sup> Economic Damages to the U.S. Beef Cattle Industry Due to COVID-19