Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

April 1, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Perdue,

We write to request swift assistance for cattle producers with the resources provided in the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stabilization (CARES) Act to facilitate the stabilization of farm and ranch income to producers who are facing market volatility in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and economic fallout.

Recognizing the market volatility and financial hardships producers are facing because of COVID-19, the CARES Act provides $14 billion toward replenishment of the Commodity Credit Corporation and an additional $9.5 billion for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to assist farmers and ranchers in response to COVID-19. While we do not know what the full market impact will be for the various commodities produced in our states, we recognize that there is an immediate need for assistance for our cattle producers.

We request that USDA consider data and estimates available from the Office of the Chief Economist and implement a program that would directly respond to the negative effect on producers caused by COVID-19. This program should deliver targeted, temporary, equitable relief to cattle producers in a manner that limits market distortions and negative effects on price discovery.

The COVID-19 outbreak has demonstrated the need for domestic food security. All farmers and ranchers are vital to our country’s ability to keep food on the table in a future pandemic or related crisis, and many producers, including young producers, are often highly leveraged and cannot fall back on years of equity in a time of crisis. As such, we urge you to quickly deliver relief to producers as we work to lessen the economic impact of this pandemic.

Sincerely,

JOHN THUNE
United States Senator

DUSTY JOHNSON
Member of Congress

CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO
United States Senator

HENRY CUellar
Member of Congress
PAT ROBERTS
United States Senator

K. MICHAEL CONAWAY
Member of Congress

JAMES E. RISCH
United States Senator

DEB FISCHER
United States Senator

JOHN CORNYN
United States Senator

MIKE CRAPO
United States Senator

MIKE BRAUN
United States Senator

STEVE DAINES
United States Senator

COLLIN C. PETERSON
Member of Congress

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY
United States Senator

JOHN BOOZMAN
United States Senator

JOHN BARRASSO, M.D.
United States Senator

KEVIN CRAMER
United States Senator

JOHN HOEVEN
United States Senator

/s/ Cory Gardner
CORY GARDNER
United States Senator

BEN SASSE
United States Senator
TOM COTTON  
United States Senator

DOUG JONES  
United States Senator

MARK R. WARNER  
United States Senator

TED CRUZ  
United States Senator

ROGER WICKER  
United States Senator

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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United States Senator

DAVID PERDUE  
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JEFREY A. MERKLEY  
United States Senator

TIM KAINE  
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KELLY LOEFFLER  
United States Senator

JEFF FORTENBERRY  
Member of Congress

DAVID ROUZER  
Member of Congress

DON BACON  
Member of Congress
ROGER MARSHALL, M.D.
Member of Congress

KEVIN BRADY
Member of Congress

ROBERT B. ADERHOLT
Member of Congress

DOUG LAMALFA
Member of Congress

GREG GIANFORTE
Member of Congress

TROY BALDERSON
Member of Congress

WILL HURD
Member of Congress

JOHN ROSE
Member of Congress

TJ COX
Member of Congress

KELLY ARMSTRONG
Member of Congress

JAMES COMER
Member of Congress

JUAN VARGAS
Member of Congress

LIZ CHENEY
Member of Congress

BEN CLINE
Member of Congress

TOM EMMER
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DARREN SOTO
Member of Congress
VICKY HARTZLER
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STEVE KING
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TRENT KELLY
Member of Congress

MAC THORNBERRY
Member of Congress

FRENCH HILL
Member of Congress

MIKE ROGERS
Member of Congress

VICENTE GONZÁLEZ
Member of Congress

/s/ GT THOMPSON
GT THOMPSON
Member of Congress

SAM GRAVES
Member of Congress

ADRIAN SMITH
Member of Congress

RON ESTES
Member of Congress

BRUCE WESTERMAN
Member of Congress

BOB GIBBS
Member of Congress

ANTHONY GONZALEZ
Member of Congress

FRANK LUCAS
Member of Congress
/s/ Ted S. Yoho  
TED S. YOHO, D.V.M.  
Member of Congress

MICHAEL GUEST  
Member of Congress

STEVE STIVERS  
Member of Congress

TERRI A. SEWELL  
Member of Congress

ALEX X. MOONEY  
Member of Congress

ROGER WILLIAMS  
Member of Congress

ABBY LINKENAUER  
Member of Congress

MARTHA ROBY  
Member of Congress

H. MORGAN GRIFFITH  
Member of Congress

ANDY HARRIS, M.D.  
Member of Congress

RODNEY DAVIS  
Member of Congress

FILEMON VELA  
Member of Congress

JEFF DUNCAN  
Member of Congress

DARIN LaHOOD  
Member of Congress

CHERI BUSTOS  
Member of Congress

ANTHONY BRINDISI  
Member of Congress
ABIGAIL D. SPANBERGER  
Member of Congress

PETE STAUBER  
Member of Congress

John H. Rutherford  
Member of Congress

/s/ Rob Bishop  
ROB BISHOP  
Member of Congress

BRYAN STEIL  
Member of Congress

JOHN SHIMKUS  
Member of Congress

BRAD R. WENSTRUP, D.P.M  
Member of Congress

ROBERT E. LATTA  
Member of Congress

RICK W. ALLEN  
Member of Congress

STEVE WATKINS  
Member of Congress

BRIAN BABIN, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress

MIKE SIMPSON  
Member of Congress

BEN RAY LUJAN  
Member of Congress

DENVER RIGGLEMAN  
Member of Congress

RUSS FULCHER  
Member of Congress