



May 18, 2017

To President Enrique Pena Nieto, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and President Donald J. Trump:

As the leaders of the Confederación Nacional de Organizaciones Ganaderas, the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, we represent the beef cattle producers of Mexico, Canada, and the United States. We urge you not to jeopardize the success we have all enjoyed as partners of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

For three decades, the cattle and beef producers of Mexico, Canada, and the United States have fiercely competed under the trade framework of NAFTA and we have all enjoyed the benefits of market-based demand for beef, live cattle and genetics. Recent statements about the possible dissolution of NAFTA or potential renegotiation of NAFTA are deeply concerning to us because of the unnecessary risk it places on our producers. While there may be general agreement among the countries to improve some parts of the NAFTA trade framework, we urge you to recognize that the terms of the agreement affecting cattle producers are strongly supported as they currently exist and should not be altered.

We also encourage you to reject efforts to use NAFTA as a platform to resurrect failed policies of the past, especially the misguided mandatory country-of-origin labeling policy that was the law of the United States for over seven years. MCOOL failed to deliver its proponents' promise to increase consumer demand or consumer confidence. Instead, it created massive disruptions in live cattle trade that hurt beef producers across North America and jeopardized the jobs of American workers that depend on processing those cattle. Furthermore, MCOOL drew the United States, Mexico, and Canada into a long and unnecessary legal battle in the World Trade Organization that cost taxpayers of all three countries millions of dollars in resources that could have been spent elsewhere. We urge you to learn from the mistakes of the past, and not to repeat them.

We believe that our economies will be stronger under NAFTA than without NAFTA. We urge you not to jeopardize the success of the men, women and families engaged in the cattle and beef industries of each of our countries, who depend on the success that market access provides under NAFTA.

Sincerely,

Sr. Oswaldo Chazaro Montalvo
Presidente, CNOG

Mr. Dan Darling
President, CCA

Mr. Craig Uden
President, NCBA