

# United States Senate

COMMITTEES  
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND  
FORESTRY  
APPROPRIATIONS  
ENERGY AND NATURAL  
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HOMELAND SECURITY AND  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
INDIAN AFFAIRS

October 25, 2017

The Honorable Wilbur Ross  
Secretary of Commerce  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230

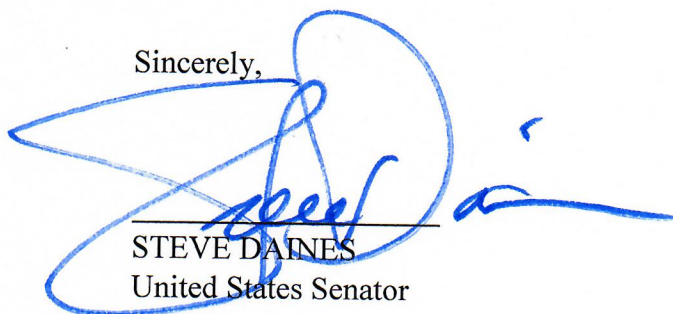
Dear Secretary Ross:

I write in support the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Montana Stockgrowers Association cooperators, Cross Four Ranch, internet retailer JD.com, and the Bank of China that was recently submitted to the U.S. Department of Commerce in advance of President Trump and President Xi meeting in China in November. I appreciate the substantial interest JD.com has expressed in purchasing high quality Montana-sourced beef and in investing in Montana agriculture and request that you give the MOU full consideration.

As you know, the lifting of the ban on U.S. beef exports to China was a significant moment, and I thank you for your efforts towards that end. In fact, my two recent high-level congressional delegations that I led to China specifically focused on lifting the ban on U.S. beef. It is important that we build on that momentum and seek opportunities to grow the market for U.S. and Montana beef in China, and I believe this MOU has the potential to do so. Additionally, last month I hosted Ambassador Cui Tiankai and a Chinese delegation in Montana where I helped facilitate connections between Montana farmers and ranchers and interested buyers. Developing these relationships will be critical to expanding opportunities for farmers and ranchers in Montana and across the country.

Montana produces some of the highest quality cattle, grain, and agricultural products in the world. Opening markets, reducing barriers to trade, and increasing demand for Montana and U.S. goods is a critical component of growing both Montana's and the U.S. economy, and the fulfillment of this MOU would serve as a positive step. I appreciate your consideration and look forward to continuing to work with you to help create sustained economic and job growth across the United States.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES  
United States Senator