

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.

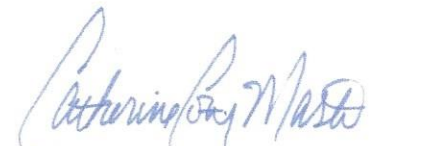
We request that USDA consider data and estimates available from the Office of the Chief Economist and implement a program that would directly respond to the negative effect on producers caused by COVID-19. This program should deliver targeted, temporary, equitable relief to cattle producers in a manner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

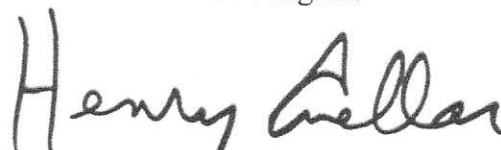
The COVID-19 outbreak has demonstrated the need for domestic food security. All farmers and ranchers are vital to our country's ability to keep food on the table in a future pandemic or related crisis, and many producers, including young producers, are often highly leveraged and cannot fall back on years 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



COLLIN C. PETERSON
Member of Congress



K. MICHAEL CONAWAY
Member of Congress



CHARLES E. GRASSLEY
United States Senator



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JOHN BOOZMAN
United States Senator



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United States Senator



JOHN BARRASSO, M.D.
United States Senator



JOHN CORNYN
United States Senator



KEVIN CRAMER
United States Senator



MIKE CRAPO
United States Senator



JOHN HOEVEN
United States Senator



MIKE BRAUN
United States Senator

/s/ Cory Gardner
CORY GARDNER
United States Senator



STEVE DAINES
United States Senator



BEN SASSE
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Jerry Moran
JERRY MORAN
United States Senator

Michael B. Enzi
MICHAEL B. ENZI
United States Senator

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JAMES LANKFORD
United States Senator

Roy Blunt
ROY BLUNT
United States Senator

M. Michael Rounds
M. MICHAEL ROUNDS
United States Senator

Cindy Hyde-Smith
CINDY HYDE-SMITH
United States Senator

Ron Wyden
RON WYDEN
United States Senator

Martha McSally
MARTHA MCSALLY
United States Senator

Kyrsten Sinema
KYRSTEN SINEMA
United States Senator

James M. Inhofe
JAMES M. INHOFE
United States Senator

Josh Hawley
JOSH HAWLEY
United States Senator

Thom Tillis
THOM TILLIS
United States Senator

Todd Young
TODD YOUNG
United States Senator

Joni K. Ernst
JONI K. ERNST
United States Senator

Richard Burr
RICHARD BURR
United States Senator

Jacky Rosen
JACKY ROSEN
United States Senator



TOM COTTON
United States Senator



BILL CASSIDY, M.D.
United States Senator



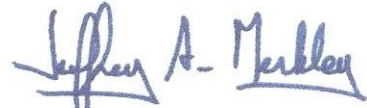
DOUG JONES
United States Senator



DAVID PERDUE
United States Senator



MARK R. WARNER
United States Senator



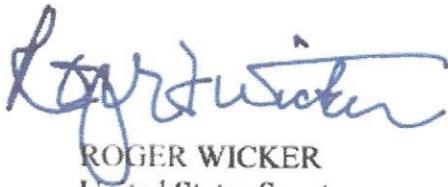
JEFFREY A. MERKLEY
United States Senator



TED CRUZ
United States Senator




TIM KAINE
United States Senator



ROGER WICKER
United States Senator



KELLY LOEFFLER
United States Senator



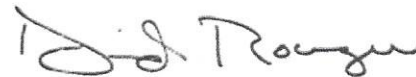
SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.
Member of Congress



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JIM COSTA
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DAVID ROUZER
Member of Congress



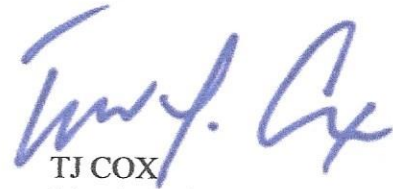
RICK CRAWFORD
Member of Congress



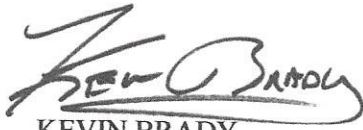
DON BACON
Member of Congress



ROGER MARSHALL, M.D.
Member of Congress



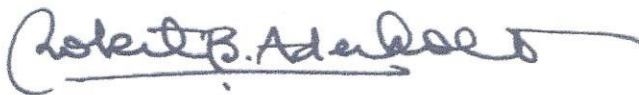
TJ COX
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KEVIN BRADY
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ROBERT B. ADERHOLT
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JAMES COMER
Member of Congress



DOUG LAMALFA
Member of Congress



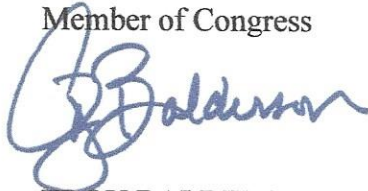
JUAN VARGAS
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GREG GIANFORTE
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LIZ CHENEY
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TROY BALDERSON
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BEN CLINE
Member of Congress



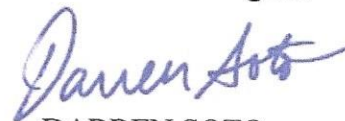
WILL HURD
Member of Congress



TOM EMMER
Member of Congress



JOHN ROSE
Member of Congress



DARREN SOTO
Member of Congress

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/s/ GT Thompson
GT THOMPSON
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FRANK LUCAS
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MARKWAYNE MULLIN
Member of Congress



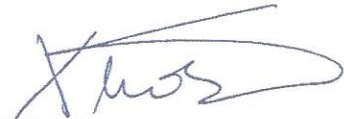
MIKE BOST
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XOCHITL TORRES SMALL
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CHRIS STEWART
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STEVE CHABOT
Member of Congress

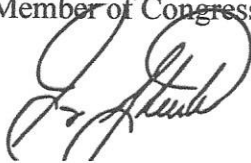


M.C.

KEVIN HERN
Member of Congress



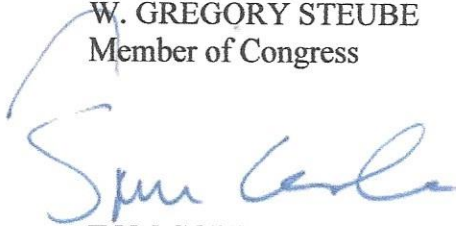
BILLY LONG
Member of Congress



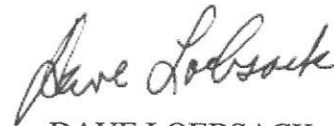
W. GREGORY STEUBE
Member of Congress



BRETT GUTHRIE
Member of Congress



TOM COLE
Member of Congress



DAVE LOEBSACK
Member of Congress



CINDY AXNE
Member of Congress



RON WRIGHT
Member of Congress



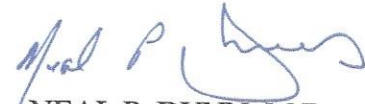
WARREN DAVIDSON
Member of Congress



JOHN MOOLENAAR
Member of Congress



DAN BISHOP
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DAVID PRICE
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DAN NEWHOUSE
Member of Congress



KENDRA S. HORN
Member of Congress



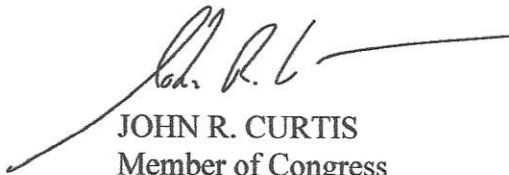
JODEY ARRINGTON
Member of Congress



RANDY K. WEBER
Member of Congress



JIM HAGEDORN
Member of Congress



JOHN R. CURTIS
Member of Congress



BILL FLORES
Member of Congress



RICHARD HUDSON
Member of Congress



AUSTIN SCOTT
Member of Congress

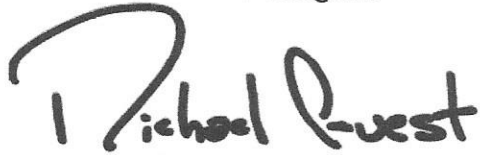



RON KIND
Member of Congress

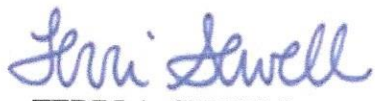


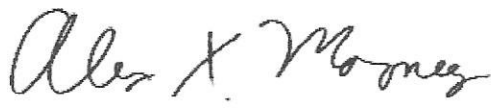
MICHAEL CLOUD
Member of Congress


/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

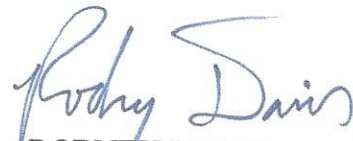

ROGER WILLIAMS
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ABBY FINKENAUER
Member of Congress



MARTHA ROBY
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H. MORGAN GRIFFITH
Member of Congress

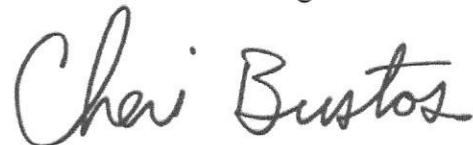

ANDY HARRIS, M.D.
Member of Congress



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BRIAN BABIN, D.D.S.
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/s/ Rob Bishop

ROB BISHOP
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MIKE SIMPSON M.C.
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BRYAN STEIL
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BEN RAY LUJAN
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JOHN SHIMKUS
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DENVER RIGGLEMAN
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BRAD R. WENSTRUP, D.P.M.
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ROBERT E. LATTA
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