

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 1, 2021

The Honorable Zach Ducheneaux
Administrator
U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C., 20250

Dear Administrator Ducheneaux:

As the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) continues working to assist farmers and ranchers affected by this year's widespread and devastating drought, we write to request that the agency address a gap in coverage under the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP).

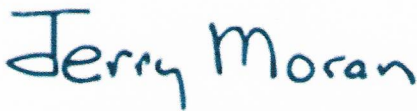
As you know, ELAP plays a critical role in assisting producers who face losses due to adverse weather events like the severe drought across the country this year. We appreciate USDA's recent efforts to improve ELAP coverage by reimbursing producers for a portion of their feed transportation costs and by lowering the threshold for assistance for water transportation costs.

While livestock producers welcomed these improvements to ELAP assistance, we continue to hear from producers who have been severely affected by drought this year and have incurred costs related to transporting their livestock to feed sources instead of hauling feed to their livestock. Under current regulations, these producers are not eligible for ELAP transportation assistance. We respectfully request that FSA exercise its authority to further improve ELAP by providing payments to producers for a portion of the costs they have incurred from transporting their livestock to feed sources.

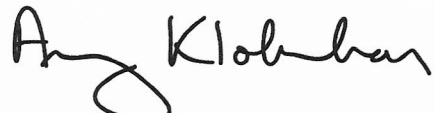
It is critically important that USDA disaster programs appropriately respond to the challenges that farmers and ranchers face during difficult times. Thank you for your efforts on behalf of U.S. agriculture and for your prompt consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


JOHN THUNE
United States Senator


JERRY MORAN
United States Senator


JON TESTER
United States Senator


AMY KLOBUCHAR
United States Senator



ROGER MARSHALL, M.D.
United States Senator



TINA SMITH
United States Senator



STEVE DAINES
United States Senator



JOHN HICKENLOOPER
United States Senator



M. MICHAEL ROUNDS
United States Senator



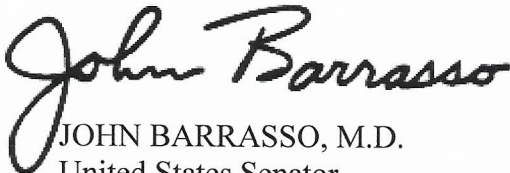
KYRSTEN SINEMA
United States Senator



DEB FISCHER
United States Senator



PATTY MURRAY
United States Senator



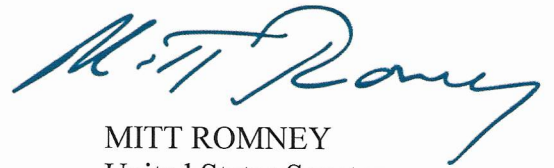
JOHN BARRASSO, M.D.
United States Senator



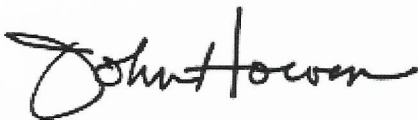
CYNTHIA M. LUMMIS
United States Senator



MICHAEL S. LEE
United States Senator



MITT ROMNEY
United States Senator



JOHN HOEVEN
United States Senator



KEVIN CRAMER
United States Senator



MIKE CRAPO
United States Senator



JAMES E. RISCH
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