



March 24, 2020

Senator Michael Crapo
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Senator James Risch
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Mike Simpson
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Russ Fulcher
United States House of Representative
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Crapo and Rish, and Representatives Simpson and Fulcher,

The Idaho Cattle Association (ICA) is the official voice of Idaho cattle producers. We work daily to preserve, promote, and protect Idaho's beef cattle industry. Our organization and its members, like others, are concerned with the drastic downturn in the market in the past weeks. This appears to be a direct response to measures taken to slow the spread of COVID-19 in the United States. Although some sectors of our communities have slowed or halted due to social distancing and/or quarantines, the beef industry does not have a pause button. The entire chain must continue to work as we strive to feed the American public a wholesome, nutritious, protein.

As economic stimulus and assistance are pondered, our member policy asks that if any assistance is deemed appropriate that it be equitable across the industry to ensure sustainability beyond the immediate support. The beef cattle industry's success is dependent on continuity and collaboration from the time a calf is born to the moment the consumer purchases the end product. If we lose any one of these steps, we will have lost any stability our industry worked hard to establish. The margins in each sector create the profitability in our entire industry.

The U.S. producer has adapted to overcome many obstacles throughout our history and in typical character of the ranchers in our state we are not asking for extra, but fair and equitable support for our industry in this time of need. The cattle industry is the backbone of America and will continue to be into the future. On behalf of Idaho's cattle producing families and all those rural communities we live in and support, we thank you for your attention to this matter as we work to get through this economic and emotional hardship placed on our nation.

Sincerely,

Dawn Anderson
President, Idaho Cattle Association

CC:

Idaho State Governor, Brad Little
National Cattlemens Beef Assoc. , Collin Woodall

