



"Working for Nebraska beef producers - pasture to plate."

March 19, 2020

The Honorable Deb Fischer
454 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
1514 Longworth House Office
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ben Sasse
107 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adrian Smith
502 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Don Bacon
1024 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

To the Honorable Nebraska Senators and Congressional Delegation:

Nebraska Cattlemen is a grassroots membership organization representing thousands of farmers and ranchers across the state of Nebraska. Livestock production has a \$13.8 billion impact on the state's economy. As such, Nebraska's top industry officially asks for the following relief in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic:

- A one-time "Beef Stimulus" payment for cattlemen and women that have dealt with rapid market decline and continued extreme volatility. This payment can and should be used to aid cattlemen weather the current extreme drain on whole farm/ranch equity.
- Explore modifications to current and/or new risk mitigation programs to increase affordability and participation.
- Ensure USDA and other federal agencies remain operational to keep packing and processing facilities operational to allow entities farther down the beef production chain the ability to keep marketing cattle.
- Explore ideas to incentivize more cattle to be marketed on the cash market, thereby increasing true price discovery and transparency in the marketplace. NC policy encourages cash negotiated trade levels reach 50% of fed cattle marketed.
- **Demand USDA increase monitoring of packer bids and take swift action if undue price manipulation exists.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kenneth Herz".

Ken Herz
Nebraska Cattlemen, President