May XX, 2020

MLA (See link below for your MLA)

Address

**RE: Request for expanded assistance for Alberta’s cattle and beef industry**

Dear Mr/Ms XXX,

As a consumer in Alberta, I am pleased to hear of increasing activity in our beef processing sector and I know that the continued operation of these plants is essential in ensuring that Canadians have access to safe and healthy Canadian beef. I am also pleased to hear of the increased support for the implementation of the best possible safety measures to ensure employees remain safe and healthy. I have experienced the impacts of plant closures on beef supplies and price increases at grocery stores. I understand this is due to lack of beef supply and not for the financial benefit of ranchers. I am aware that this continues to be a critical time for Alberta’s beef industry and I am concerned about food security and the entire beef industry in Alberta and across Canada, especially if processing is further reduced or suspended again in the future.

It is my understanding that the beef industry appreciates the federal and provincial funding support for an AgriRecovery program, but they need further support if all sectors of the beef supply chain are to survive. I have read that the announced set-aside program will help to address the most urgent need facing our beef industry by reducing the flow of cattle to the plants. However, I don’t think it will help the producers down the line who may experience significant losses on their calves in the fall.

As a beef consumer, I am concerned about being able to purchase beef at the grocery store to feed my family a nutritious and balanced diet. As an Albertan, I recognize the importance of ranchers and beef production as a major economic driver of this province, and as a taxpayer I strongly support my tax dollars contributing to help ranchers survive this crisis. Not only is their existence and viability so important to the provincial economy as a whole, they are the stewards of our natural grasslands that I fear could be further lost if more ranchers go out of business. I have heard that after the BSE crisis 27,000 beef producers left the Canadian industry, which further resulted in a loss of five million acres of grassland. This diminishes our wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration and biodiversity on these endangered grasslands. Furthermore, our ranchers care for live animals and we need to ensure they are taken care of them properly through this crisis.

I am appreciative that Alberta’s beef producers are working hard to supply high quality, nutritious beef for Canadians and I strongly support the Alberta Beef Producers request for further financial commitment from the Alberta government. The Government of Alberta needs to show leadership and take steps to safeguard our food supply during the COVID-19 pandemic. I also hope that you will encourage your government colleagues to consider expanding financial support to include all sectors of the industry. Together, we can ensure that Canadians will have access to safe and healthy food through COVID-19 and in the years of recovery following the pandemic.

Sincerely,

Alberta Beef consumer, Town/region

**Alberta MLA Directory:**

<http://www.assembly.ab.ca/net/index.aspx?p=mla_report&memPhoto=True&alphaboth=True&alphaindex=True&build=y&caucus=All&conoffice=True&legoffice=True&mememail=True>