

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4105

April 27, 2021

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chairwoman
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
U.S. Senate

The Honorable John Boozman
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
U.S. Senate

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow and Ranking Member Boozman,

I write to request that the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, hold a hearing to consider the challenges facing the livestock industry and bills that have been introduced that seek to improve the situation.

As you know, livestock producers in South Dakota and throughout the country have faced significant hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While consumer demand for beef in grocery stores increased significantly, cattle cash prices and futures plummeted. The Senate Agriculture Committee has not held a livestock-related hearing since September 2019 following market volatility after the August 2019 Tyson beef plant fire in Holcomb, Kansas.

In addition to hearing from producers on current economic and market conditions, multiple bills have been introduced this Congress related to the cattle market and meat processing that warrant the committee's consideration. I introduced the Strengthening Local Processing Act (S. 370), which would support the establishment and expansion of small meat processing facilities. In addition, Senator Fischer and Senator Grassley have each introduced legislative proposals that would make changes to the existing cattle market.

I request that the Senate Agriculture Committee hold a hearing to consider this issue and the challenges livestock producers have faced. 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