



National Cattlemen's
Beef Association



June 20, 2018

Dear Representative:

America's cattlemen and women are faced with daily uncertainty and challenges such as weather, market fluctuations, trade disruptions, and the welfare of their cattle. The last thing they need is uncertainty heaped upon them by not having a new Farm Bill in place by the end of September. The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), the Public Lands Council (PLC), and the undersigned state cattle organizations write to express our strong support for H.R. 2, the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018. Therefore, we request you vote **YES** on H.R. 2 when it is brought up again for a vote.

H.R. 2 contains several provisions of great importance to the livestock industry. First, it authorizes the National Animal Health Vaccine Bank. This critical vaccine bank would be the first of its kind and prioritizes federal resources for Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) preparedness. FMD is a highly contagious viral disease that has the potential to spread widely and rapidly, debilitating cloven-hoofed animals, such as cattle, swine, sheep, goats, and deer. Analysts estimate that a widespread FMD outbreak in the United States would cost the taxpayer and livestock producers billions of dollars in the first year alone. Establishing a vaccine bank in the U.S. is a crucial first step toward protecting our nation's livestock producers and safeguarding our economy.

Additionally, this legislation strengthens investments in locally-led, voluntary, incentive-based conservation on working lands by improving programs cattle producers rely upon, such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP). The bill also includes important provisions to expand opportunities for livestock owners to use haying, grazing, and other management tools and increases flexibility by automatically making the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) eligible for grazing when the livestock assistance program is activated due to drought.

Further, H.R. 2 strengthens investments in trade promotion initiatives by consolidating USDA's Market Access Program (MAP) and the Foreign Market Development program into a new International Market Development Program (IMDP). Trade is extremely important to the U.S. cattle business because it allows for an animal's maximum value to be realized.

This Farm Bill is good for cattle farmers and ranchers. Failure to pass this bill for a second time is unacceptable. Vote **YES** on the Farm Bill, H.R. 2.

Respectfully,

National Cattlemen's Beef Association
Public Lands Council

Alabama Cattlemen's Association
American National CattleWomen
Arizona Cattle Growers' Association
Arkansas Cattlemen's Association
California Cattlemen's Association
Colorado Cattlemen's Association
Colorado Livestock Association
Florida Cattlemen's Association
Georgia Cattlemen's Association
Idaho Cattle Association
Illinois Beef Association
Indiana Beef Cattle Association
Iowa Cattlemen's Association
Kansas Livestock Association
Kentucky Cattlemen's Association
Louisiana Cattlemen's Association
Maryland Cattlemen's Association
Medora Grazing Association
Michigan Cattlemen's Association
Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association
Mississippi Cattlemen's Association
Missouri Cattlemen's Association
Montana Stockgrowers Association
Nebraska Cattlemen's Association
Nevada Cattlemen's Association
New York Beef Producer's Association
North Carolina Cattlemen's Association
North Dakota Stockmen's Association
Ohio Cattlemen's Association
Oregon Cattlemen's Association
South Carolina Cattlemen's Association
South Dakota Cattlemen's Association
Tennessee Cattlemen's Association
Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association
Texas Cattle Feeders Association
Utah Cattlemen's Association
Virginia Cattlemen's Association
Washington Cattle Feeders Association
Washington Cattlemen's Association
West Virginia Cattlemen's Association
Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association
Wyoming Stock Growers Association