

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 8, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write to ask for your urgent assistance for America's livestock and poultry producers who are facing unprecedented processing challenges in the wake of the ongoing 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency. Specifically, we ask that your Administration immediately provide national guidance allowing livestock depopulation and disposal expenses to be reimbursed under Category B of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance program.

For example, in Minnesota at least 10,000 pigs are being depopulated daily¹ as plant closures have left farmers with no other option. Even as plants begin to reopen, meat and poultry plants are expected to operate below maximum capacity for the foreseeable future in order to maintain appropriate public health and worker safety precautions meaning that, unfortunately, depopulation will continue.

States have helped farmers through the last several weeks by assisting with orderly and safe disposal, preventing adverse impacts on public health or the environment, but they need help. FEMA, with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, has been a valued Federal partner in responding to animal losses due other natural disasters and we should treat COVID-19 no differently.

FEMA's immediate assistance and clear communication to its state partners is of utmost importance. We are committed to working with you and your Administration to do everything we can to help farmers and ranchers through this difficult time.

Sincerely,



Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



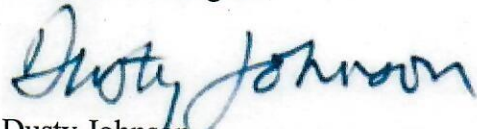
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



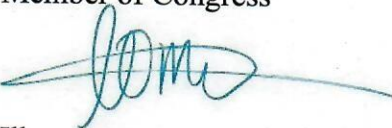
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Steve King
Member of Congress



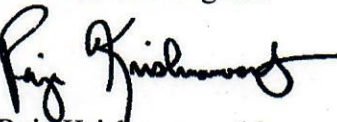
Dusty Johnson
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Cindy Axne
Member of Congress



Jim Hagedorn
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



Abby Finkenauer
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Chad Wolf, Acting Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
The Honorable Sonny Perdue, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
The Honorable Peter T. Gaynor, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency