Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 9, 2019

The Honorable Raymond P. Martinez
Administrator
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Martinez,

We are writing to support the National Cattlemen's Beef Association's request for an emergency declaration and suspension of Hours of Service (HOS) for live cattle haulers for nine months until the Tyson's beef processing plant in Holcomb, Kansas is rebuilt.

On August 9, 2019, a fire shut down the plant that processes 6,000 head of cattle per day. Fortunately, there are other facilities that can accommodate the additional cattle. Unfortunately, the other facilities are located hundreds of miles away. In order to protect the welfare of the cattle and due to the economics of ranching, the livestock need to be processed as planned and cannot wait for months in the feed yards.

It is important that cattle haulers transport their cargo in a safe and timely fashion. Any additional delays in transport dramatically increases the mortality rate among the animals. Granting this emergency request for the suspension of HOS is important for cattle haulers as well as America's farmers and ranchers.

We appreciate the work you and your team have done to implement common sense reforms to HOS rules. Thank you for your attention to this matter and urge you to support this request.

Sincerely,

Greg Gianforte
Member of Congress

Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress

Roger Marshall, M.D.
Member of Congress

Kelly Armstrong
Member of Congress

Ron Estes
Member of Congress

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