

Montana and American farmers have become good at producing cheap food commodities for the world, but ironically the COVID-19 crisis demonstrates that we struggle to feed ourselves. Food Chains have become extremely long with producers and consumers kept far apart. One lesson we have learned from COVID-19 is that we need to build a more resilient food system to better endure a crisis in the future.

Building a more resilient food system calls for the following action items from Congress:

- Provide state and federal support for the establishment of cooperative slaughter facilities
- Allow state-inspected meat to be sold across state borders
- Reinstate mandatory Country-of-Origin Labeling
- Congress must pass legislation to prevent the four multi-national meat packing companies from controlling the industry
- Enforce anti-trust laws and pass legislative reform that promotes competition and fairness in the industry
- Require packers to purchase 50% of cattle from the cash market

I urge you to action by passing real livestock reform that will benefit farmers, ranchers, and consumers. Our food security rests in your hands and depends on real action by congress.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

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