

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 1, 2020

The Honorable Greg Ibach  
Under Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Under Secretary Ibach,

Thank you for your efforts to help farmers and ranchers and for including bison in the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) 2. In light of the continuing over supply challenges facing bison producers, we write to express our support for the National Bison Association's request for a \$17 million Section 32 purchase of bison meat.

Like most other sectors of agriculture, the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has hit the bison industry hard. Significant disruptions in the farmers' market sector, restaurant trade, and agritourism have altogether compounded the difficulties for bison ranchers. According to the National Bison Association, between January and April of this year, bull prices declined by an average of 37 percent; heifer prices declined by an average of 25 percent; and the cost of feeding bison in finishing facilities increased by an average of 12 percent.

More than ever, the bison industry needs support. An unanticipated over-supply of harvest-ready animals, drought across the heart of bison production territory, and the COVID-19 public health emergency have created an uncertain economic outlook. As you know, existing authority under Section 32 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1935 (Public Law 74-320) allows the U.S. Department of Agriculture to make purchases of farm products to be used for distribution through the federal food and nutrition programs. Granting the National Bison Association's \$17 million purchase request would provide much needed stability and market relief for bison producers struggling in the current environment.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions, or should you need additional information.

Sincerely,



John Hoeven  
U.S. Senator



Michael F. Bennet  
U.S. Senator



John Barrasso, M.D.  
U.S. Senator



John Boozman  
U.S. Senator



Kevin Cramer  
U.S. Senator



Michael B. Enzi  
U.S. Senator



Cory Gardner  
U.S. Senator



Jerry Moran  
U.S. Senator



Pat Roberts  
U.S. Senator



M. Michael Rounds  
U.S. Senator



Tina Smith  
U.S. Senator



John Thune  
U.S. Senator