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 daily ⁱ 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

Member of Congress

Danny & Danie

Danny K. Davis Member of Congress

Betty McCollum Member of Congress

Steve King Member of Congress

Dusty Johnson Member of Congress

Ilhan Ómar Member of Congress

Tom Emmer Member of Congress

Raja Krishnamoorthi Member of Congress

intos Cheri Bustos

Member of Congress

Angie Craig Member of Congress

the U

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

ⁱ https://www.startribune.com/in-minnesota-10-000-pigs-are-being-euthanized-a-day/570222062/.