



October 13, 2017

President Donald Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Robert Lighthizer  
Office of the United States Trade Representative  
600 17<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear President Trump and United States Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer:

On behalf of the United States Cattlemen's Association (USCA), I write to you in support for the inclusion of perishable and cyclical agriculture product definitions within the re-negotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Currently, the fruit and vegetable industry is seeking stronger protections in antidumping and countervailing duty proceedings within the NAFTA renegotiations. USCA supports this effort and requests that livestock and fresh meat receive similar treatment and protections under the perishable and cyclical agricultural products provision within NAFTA.

Livestock and fresh meat products have long been considered a perishable and cyclical product with bipartisan consensus reached in the 2002 Senate through the "Colloquy on Livestock and Meat Products as Perishable and Cyclical Products." While most recognize that fresh meat is perishable, many are not aware that livestock can also be perishable. For example, cattle that are ready for slaughter must be processed within two to three weeks of reaching their optimal weight. Once cattle are above the optimal weight, there is a significant loss in quality that results in drastic price discounts.

The re-negotiation of NAFTA presents a timely opportunity to address issues within the agreement that adversely affect the trade of perishable and cyclical products, improve import relief mechanisms for faster and more effective resolution of cases involving these products, and create consensus on the treatment of these products for timely dumping and safeguard investigations.

This is a common-sense provision that can easily be addressed during the multi-lateral discussions and USCA supports the inclusion of these parameters within the upcoming renegotiations.

Sincerely,

CC: *Secretary Wilbur Ross, Department of Commerce*  
*Chairman Pat Roberts, U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry*  
*Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow, U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry*  
*Chairman K. Michael Conaway, U.S. House Committee on Agriculture*  
*Ranking Member Colin C. Peterson, U.S. House Committee on Agriculture*