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March 28, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

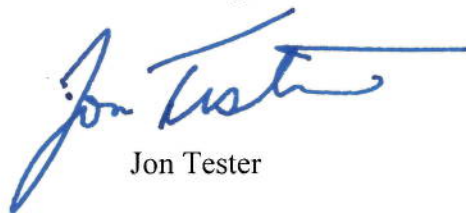
Dear President Trump:

I write to respectfully request that you prioritize negotiating America's access to China's beef market when you meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping early next month. Last fall, China announced that it is lifting its ban on United States beef imports, opening an opportunity for American producers to sell their world-class products to a significant foreign market. Before beef exports to China can resume, however, the United States and China need to agree to specific trade terms. As such, I ask that you please raise this issue with President Xi and make negotiating a bilateral trade deal with China on beef products a priority for your administration.

American producers raise the best and most demanded beef products in world. Furthermore, the professionals at USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service work diligently to ensure that American beef is held to the highest safety and quality standards. In light of the recent scandal in Brazil where a series of events led to rotten meat entering the marketplace, the United States should be unabashedly proud of our enduring commitment to producing and selling the safest and most reliable beef products in the global marketplace.

Across rural America, producers are struggling to stay in business with historically low commodity prices across the board. Opening access to new beef markets, especially markets the size of China, is a critical step toward protecting and growing jobs in rural America. In your meetings with President Xi next month, please strongly consider discussing the benefits that an increase in beef trade would have for both nations. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester

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