

June 21, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Room S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Room S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chairwoman
U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Boozman
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairwoman Stabenow, and Ranking Member Boozman:

The undersigned state Farm Bureaus, representing cattle ranchers across the country, are opposed to S. 4030, the Cattle Price Discovery, and Transparency Act (CPDTA), because it would create an onerous government mandate in the cattle market. We write to you today to respectfully request you oppose and prevent any further action on this legislation.

American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) policy generally supports certain provisions of the CPDTA that would benefit U.S. cattlemen and women, including the 14-day cattle slaughter report, expedited carcass weights reporting, and the cattle contract library. We appreciate the inclusion of these provisions.

However, Farm Bureau remains strongly opposed to provisions included in Sections 2 and 7 specific to the establishment of federal mandatory minimum thresholds under which certain percentages of cattle are purchased. There is no economic evidence to show regional mandates will increase prices for cow-calf and stocker operators.

Additionally, many studies and analyses from economists at renowned universities conclude a federal mandate in the market will cost cow-calf and stocker operators anywhere from \$50-85 per head, if not more, on the price they receive for their cattle. It is clear the mandate is not the solution to higher cattle prices and profitability for farmers and ranchers.

We also have concerns about the establishment of five to seven new "covered regions" that would fall under price reporting. Additional analysis by USDA should be completed prior to any federally mandated changes.

As discussions surrounding cattle markets and producer profitability continue, our state Farm Bureaus look forward to working with Congress to identify solutions that have industry consensus and benefit cattle producers nationwide. A change this substantial should have majority support from the industry, and S. 4030 simply does not. It is important to ensure legislation is well thought out before being enacted. Failure to do so can hurt the very producers it is intended to help.

Again, the undersigned state Farm Bureaus encourage you to oppose and prevent further consideration of the CPDTA, unless the mandate portions of the bill are removed.

Sincerely,



Scott VanderWal
Vice President, American Farm Bureau Federation
President, South Dakota Farm Bureau



Russell W. Boening
President, Texas Farm Bureau



Cynthia Johnson
President, Montana Farm Bureau



Rich Felts
President, Kansas Farm Bureau

Rodd Moesel
President, Oklahoma Farm Bureau

Carlyle Currier
President, Colorado Farm Bureau

Jimmy Parnell
President, Alabama Farmers Federation

Stefanie Smallhouse
President, Arizona Farm Bureau

Rich Hillman
President, Arkansas Farm Bureau

James Johansson
President, California Farm Bureau

Jeb S. Smith
President, Florida Farm Bureau

Randy Cabral
President, Hawaii Farm Bureau

Bryan Searle
President, Idaho Farm Bureau

Wayne Stafford
President, Maryland Farm Bureau

Warren Shaw
President, Massachusetts Farm Bureau

Craig Ogden
President, New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau

David Fisher
President, New York Farm Bureau

Bevan Lister
President, Nevada Farm Bureau

Daryl Lies
President, North Dakota Farm Bureau

Rick Ebert
President, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau

Ron Gibson
President, Utah Farm Bureau