



National Cattlemen's
Beef Association



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

Vice President Mike Pence
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

April 25, 2018

Dear President Trump and Vice President Pence,

As I am sure you are both aware, Western Oklahoma is currently facing some of the most devastating wildfires in recent memory. Since sparking two weeks ago, the fires have burned over 320,000 acres of land and continue to grow. In addition to the daily stress and anxiety caused by the wildfires, cattlemen and rural communities have suffered extensive financial losses, including homes, cattle, ranch equipment, and fencing.

Responding to the fires and delivering social services to impacted communities is taking a huge toll on local, rural fire departments and emergency responders in small Oklahoma towns. In many cases, volunteer first responders in these rural communities are cattle producers themselves.

Weston Givens, President of the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, has been in touch with many of his members affected by the wildfires. Based on reports from cattle producers on the ground, losses are already catastrophic and far exceed the damage caused by wildfires in 2017. Unfortunately, the full extent of financial loss and the number of livestock killed will not be known until the winds subside, moisture moves in, and the fires are under control.

The Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association are grateful for the support producers have received thus far. Members of Oklahoma's Congressional delegation have visited the devastated areas and private citizens are donating resources to relief efforts. However, given the severity of the situation, we would like to extend an invitation for you both to visit the affected areas, meet with producers who have suffered losses, and see what help can be given to these great Americans. If you are able to make time in your busy schedules, your presence on the ground would be a welcome sign of support for communities in Western Oklahoma who are reeling from the recent events.

Thank you for your time and any further attention you can give to this matter.

Sincerely,

Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association

National Cattlemen's Beef Association