

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 12, 2025

Secretary Brooke Rollins
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Secretary Doug Burgum
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Chief Tim Schultz
U.S. Forest Service
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Director Brian Nesvik
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Rollins, Secretary Burgum, Chief Forester Schultz, and Director Nesvik:

I request that each of your agencies immediately review and evaluate your current processes, rules, and regulations, and report back to Congress with a clear plan for how you will ensure that the expansion and rebuilding of the American cattle herd is not sacrificed to extreme environmental causes. Radical environmentalists have weaponized “sue and settle” tactics, the Endangered Species Act, and outdated land conservation ideas to harm ranchers, block growth, and undermine America’s food security. Congress must not allow these tactics to continue.

I have received troubling reports that cattle ranchers are being forced to reduce their herd counts because of government mandates and orders related to the use of public grazing lands. At a time when rebuilding the domestic cattle herd is vital to our food security and rural livelihoods, these mandates are unacceptable. If this is happening, it must stop immediately.

Since 2017, the number of U.S. cattle operations has dropped by more than 150,000, representing a 17 percent decline. The national herd has fallen to its lowest level in over 70 years, even as beef demand has grown nearly 10 percent over the last decade.¹ Rising feed costs, drought, and layers of federal red tape have forced family operations to sell off livestock or shut down entirely. Meanwhile, extremist lawsuits and overreach under the Endangered Species Act have expanded critical habitat designations into working lands, choking growth and creating regulatory uncertainty that drives ranchers out of business.

New research shows that grazing is not a threat to the land. It is a proven tool to combat wildfires, reduce erosion, promote biodiversity, and regenerate soil.² Ranchers are not the

¹U.S. Department of Agriculture. *USDA Beef Industry Plan White Paper*. October 20, 2025.
<https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA%20Beef%20Industry%20Plan%20White%20Paper.pdf>

² U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, “ARS Scientists Discover Strategically Applied Livestock Grazing Can Benefit Sagebrush Communities,” news release, August 5, 2024.
<https://www.ars.usda.gov/news-events/news/research-news/2024/ars-scientists-discover-strategically-applied-livestock-grazing-can-benefit-sagebrush-communities/>

problem. They are the solution. Yet outdated regulations and false claims continue to punish them, while predators such as the Mexican wolf devastate herds under the shield of a misapplied endangered species designation.

President Trump's vision is clear. We must rebuild our domestic beef herd, restore grazing access, and reduce dependency on foreign supply. That requires your agencies to act decisively, align land use policy with science, and reject radical environmental agendas that are not grounded in evidence. Ranchers deserve clear rules, fair access, and the ability to grow their operations without fear of litigation or regulatory sabotage.

I stand ready to work with you in Congress to ensure accountability. Conduct a full review, identify and evaluate harmful actions, and report back to Congress with a plan that puts America's ranchers and America's food security first. This must be done in a timely manner. We cannot afford to wait.

Sincerely,



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar
Member of Congress



Elijah Crane
Member of Congress



Juan Ciscomani
Member of Congress