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Editor, Beef Magazine  
Sarah Muirhead  
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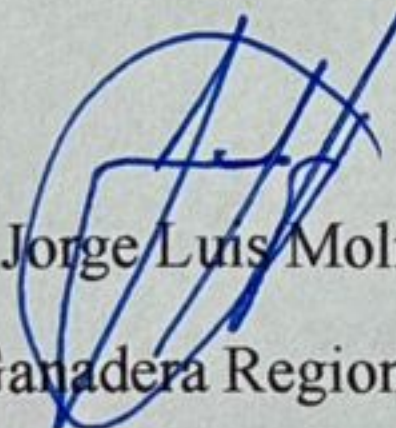
RE: Economic Impact of USDA Policy and Arizona-Mexico Livestock Port Closures

Dear Ms. Muirhead,

As a Sonoran cattleman, current representative, and past president of the Union Ganadera Regional de Sonora (UGRS), I am writing to provide firsthand perspective on the safety and quality of cattle imported from Sonora to the United States. The state of Sonora shares a 40-year partnership with USDA-APHIS to ensure the safety and quality of Sonoran cattle imported into the United States. Through rigorous statewide campaigns, we successfully eradicated tuberculosis and brucellosis. Consequently, Sonora maintains the highest disease classification in Mexico "Advanced Modified Accredited", which serves as a testament to Sonora's commitment to biosecurity.

The UGRS and Sonoran producers approached the New World Screwworm (NWS) threat with the same vigilance. Sonora maintains more than 400 trained inspectors across the state who are dedicated to NWS identification and trap monitoring. Because Sonora is NWS free, Sonora is a safe, vital partner for the regionalization of U.S.-Mexican ports and the continued flow of high-quality beef cattle trade that supports our historical North American trade relations. Thank you to BEEF Magazine for bringing attention to this essential issue for the North American beef sector.

Sincerely,

  
Jorge Luis Molina

Independent Rancher and Union Ganadera Regional de Sonora Representative (UGRS)

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