



April 30, 2020

The Honorable William Barr
U.S. Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Barr,

I am writing you today to support recent letters from the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, Wyoming Livestock Board, and the Wyoming Stock Grower's Association, among others, requesting the Department of Justice (DOJ) join the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in investigating potential infractions of the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921, as amended.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, combined with events in the fall of last year, financial impacts to livestock producers have continued to compound. I write to you today to echo the concerns surrounding the markets and impacts to the nation's food production that the Wyoming Stock Growers Association and others, including state agencies, detailed in their letters to you.

While I understand there is currently a USDA investigation underway, the industry should be provided clarity and by joining this investigation the DOJ could bring much needed resources to bear. Livestock production is a cornerstone of Wyoming's agriculture industry, our way of life, and a vital piece of the nation's food and fiber production. Rural communities are already reeling and something must be done to ensure our producers are protected from undue financial burdens. I appreciate your time and any help you may be able to provide on this crucial issue.

Sincerely,

Mark Gordon
Governor

MG:jb:kh