



October 28, 2021

Dear Texas Congressional Delegation:

Recently, the House Agriculture Committee passed the Cattle Contract Library Act of 2021 (H.R. 5609), led by Rep. Dusty Johnson and Rep. Henry Cuellar, to mandate the creation of a cattle contract library within USDA's Agriculture Marketing Service.

Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) supports H.R. 5609 and the additional transparency it incorporates into Livestock Mandatory Reporting (LMR). Though we support the passage of this bill, we do not expect this legislation to have a significant impact on our market or resolve the current market issues facing cattle producers. As such, TSCRA does not want this Act to usurp the more critical issue of increasing negotiated trade to minimum levels regionally necessary to achieve robust price discovery.

TSCRA is also concerned that the addition of this legislation to the reauthorization of LMR could hinder the passage of LMR reauthorization. LMR is a vital transparency tool producers already have at their disposal and cannot afford to lose. As such, TSCRA would oppose tying H.R. 5609 to LMR reauthorization. If Congress wishes to help cattle producers and improve transparency, it should consider eliminating the confidentiality clause in LMR. By removing this clause, LMR would provide an even more significant and helpful level of transparency than the Cattle Contract Library Act of 2021.

Our industry is going through unprecedented times. While meatpackers report record margins, cattle producers lack price discovery, have higher input costs and are faced with a lack of packer capacity. H.R. 5609 must not be viewed as a one-size-fits-all solution when larger issues must be addressed to alleviate the concerns of Texas cattle raisers.

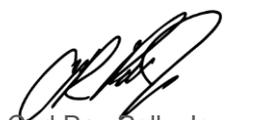
We commend Rep. Johnson and Rep. Cuellar for their long-standing commitment to cattle producers and urge Congress to address the critical issues of price discovery, packer capacity and obtaining the reauthorization of LMR. The affordability and stability of our nation's food supply depend on it.

If you have any questions, please contact TSCRA Director of Government Relations, Peyton Schumann, at pschumann@tscra.org or by phone at (325) 864-8802.

Respectfully,


G. Hughes Abell
President


Arthur Uhl III
First Vice President


Carl Ray Polk, Jr.
Second Vice President