

April 25, 2022

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chairwoman
Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

The Honorable John Boozman
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

Re: Cattle Price Discovery and Transparency Act of 2022

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow and Ranking Member Boozman:

The undersigned state cattle organizations respectfully urge that you and other members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry oppose the Cattle Price Discovery and Transparency Act of 2022 (S. 4030).

Our organizations have successfully led a voluntary, private-sector, market-based effort that has increased negotiated cattle trade to levels recommended by university economists and supported by extensive economic research. We remain diligent in these efforts and are opposed to any proposals that would mandate how cattle must be sold or limit cattle producers' freedom to market cattle in a manner that returns the highest value. S. 4030 would set a dangerous precedent and lead to significant unintended consequences for producers and consumers.

Price discovery and transparency are necessary and important to the cattle industry to ensure functional markets and efficient risk management. Our organizations and members are supportive of efforts that accomplish better price discovery and transparency through free market mechanisms that avoid unnecessary costs to cattle producers and maintain the freedom to realize value-based marketing arrangements that respond to consumer demands for high-quality, sustainably produced beef.

We support less intrusive transparency measures that center on data collection and dissemination rather than market interference. For instance, a cattle contract library pilot program passed in the Fiscal Year 2022 Omnibus Appropriations Act. Once this pilot program has been designed, implemented, and properly evaluated by Congress, USDA, and the larger cattle industry and proven to provide producers with useful market information, we would consider supporting a longer-term extension of the cattle contract library. In addition, Congress could enact changes to Livestock Mandatory Reporting (LMR) to ensure more trades appear in daily and weekly cattle market reports. Finally, certain LMR regions often have data excluded due to confidentiality constraints, while other areas of the country are not even included in LMR reports despite having significant numbers of fed cattle trade on a regular basis. Congress should expand current LMR regions to supplement existing data. For example, a 2019 USDA-funded study recommended that Wyoming should be added to the Colorado Region and South Dakota and Illinois should be added to the Iowa/Minnesota Region.

The threat of government control over cattle markets is extremely concerning. We respectfully request that you oppose S. 4030 and let cattle producers continue to address this issue through a voluntary approach based on sound, free-market principles.

Sincerely,

American National CattleWomen
Arizona Cattle Feeders Association
California Cattlemen's Association
Colorado Cattlemen's Association
Colorado Livestock Association
Florida Cattlemen's Association
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Idaho Cattle Association
Illinois Beef Association
Indiana Beef Cattle Association
Kansas Livestock Association
Kentucky Cattlemen's Association
Louisiana Cattlemen's Association
Michigan Cattlemen's Association
Montana Stockgrowers Association
National Cattlemen's Beef Association Livestock Marketing Council
Nevada Cattlemen's Association
North Carolina Cattlemen's Association
Ohio Cattlemen's Association
Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association
Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association
South Carolina Cattlemen's Association
South Dakota Cattlemen's Association
Tennessee Cattlemen's Association
Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association
Texas Cattle Feeders Association
Utah Cattlemen's Association
Washington Cattlemen's Association
Washington Cattle Feeders Association
West Virginia Cattlemen's Association

cc:	Senator Patrick Leahy	Minority Leader Mitch McConnell
	Senator Sherrod Brown	Senator John Hoeven
	Senator Amy Klobuchar	Senator Joni Ernst
	Senator Michael Bennet	Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith
	Senator Kristin Gillibrand	Senator Roger Marshall
	Senator Tina Smith	Senator Tommy Tuberville
	Senator Richard Durbin	Senator Chuck Grassley
	Senator Cory Booker	Senator John Thune
	Senator Ben Ray Luján	Senator Deb Fischer
	Senator Raphael Warnock	Senator Mike Braun