

North Dakota
STOCKMEN'S ASSOCIATION



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Aug. 16, 2019

Raymond P. Martinez, Administrator
Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Martinez:

The North Dakota Stockmen's Association is a 90-year-old beef cattle trade organization representing 3,000 cattle-ranching families in our state. We write to you to request your assistance with a situation that has recently occurred.

As you know, on Aug. 9, 2019, fire consumed and shut down Tyson's Holcomb, Kan., beef processing plant. With a 6,000-head-per-day capacity, the facility is significant to the overall U.S. beef industry, representing approximately 6 percent of our nation's total beef processing capacity. Company officials have indicated their plans to reopen, but the timeline is likely months away. This has and will continue to cause substantial disruptions to the entire U.S. beef industry due to the uncertainty of where animals will be processed and the displacement of those animals to other processing facilities, in many cases states away. It is critical for the animals' welfare that those scheduled to be processed be processed in a timely fashion, as they cannot remain at feedlots for months on end. This is also critically important to maintain the currentness of our market.

We respectfully request that the Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration swiftly waive the Hours-of-Service rules for livestock haulers to help accommodate the longer hauls that will be necessary to move cattle to other, farther away markets due to this emergency situation.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this issue further, please call our office at (701) 223-2522.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie Ellingson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Julie Ellingson
Executive Vice President