



The *Minnesota State*
Cattlemen's Association

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April 19, 2022

Senator Torrey Westrom
Chair, Senate Agriculture and Rural Development Finance and Policy Committee
3201 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Avenue W.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Mike Sundin
Chair, House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee
417 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Westrom, Chair Sundin and members of the drought relief conference committee:

The Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association is writing in support of an efficient compromise and passing of the emergency relief package. Most importantly, we are supportive of the drought relief loan funding for livestock producers.

Due to the severity of the drought this year, producers had to make several challenging decisions, many of which are still affecting their operations. Increased costs producers faced associated with feed, water hauling, fencing equipment to care for their livestock put many producers in tight financial positions. Many of our members were forced to downsize, liquidate, or move their cows out of state. The Minnesota beef industry generates a \$4.9 billion economic impact to our state's economy. This drought relief will not only help producers, but it will also help rural communities and businesses by keeping more cattle production in our state.

A drought relief package was needed last summer and the longer this process is delayed the more financial stress it puts on producers across our state. We again ask for a swift compromise to ensure aid is granted to producers who suffered greatly from this past year's historic drought.

Kindest Regards,

Allison VanDerWal
Executive Director
Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association