

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

August 5, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave SW  
Washington DC 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We write today to request your urgent assistance for the nearly 150 family lamb and sheep producers across 15 states who will soon be left without a means to process their sheep.

As you are likely aware, Mountain States Rosen, LLC, filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy earlier this year, and the sale of its assets was recently approved by the bankruptcy court. It is our understanding that the facility in Greeley, Colo., will cease harvesting and processing lambs in the near future, eliminating processing availability for these lamb producers.

As the second largest processor of lambs in the U.S., this closure removes upwards of 20% of the overall lamb processing capacity nationwide. While we are aware that a new facility is under construction in the region, that facility is not yet operational and was planned to be additive to the region's processing needs.

This closure also comes at a time when the sheep industry was already forecast to lose more than \$350 million due to COVID-19-related market declines, and feedlots are already at peak capacity in many places.

We ask that you use all available authorities and funding at your discretion, including as provided under the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act as well as the work of the Marketing and Regulatory Programs and Rural Development mission areas, to help these farmers and ranchers find alternate processing and marketing options immediately.

We must do everything we can to support the families, who make up the sheep industry in our states, as they weather these significant and pressing challenges. Please keep us updated on your efforts to address this situation. We look forward to working with you on this critical issue.

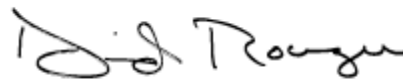


JIM COSTA  
Member of Congress



COLLIN C. PETERSON  
Member of Congress

Sincerely,



DAVID ROUZER  
Member of Congress



K. MICHAEL CONAWAY  
Member of Congress

The Honorable Sonny Perdue

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ANGIE CRAIG  
Member of Congress

XOCHITL TORRES SMALL  
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MIKE SIMPSON  
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GREG GIANFORTE  
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

DEVIN NUNES  
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DOUG LaMALFA  
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