



January 19, 2018

Honourable Deron Bilous  
Minister of Economic Development and Trade  
Deputy Government House Leader  
425 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Bilous,

**RE: Alberta Government support for the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), aka TPP11**

On behalf of Alberta Beef Producers and all cattle and beef producers in Alberta and across Canada, I am writing to ask you and the Government of Alberta to support Canada's participation in the CPTPP and strongly encourage the Federal Government to ensure that Canada is part of this agreement.

ABP is a strong advocate for increasing beef trade, opening up new export markets to add value to our high-quality beef. We actively support the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) and the Government of Canada in their efforts to increase trade and reduce trade barriers, efforts which are vitally important for the economic sustainability of the Alberta and Canadian beef industry.

Currently we are at a competitive disadvantage with respect to trade in the Pacific Rim countries. The CPTPP represents a massive opportunity for Canada's beef sector, particularly in the vital Japanese market. If Canada is not part of the agreement and the remaining countries move ahead, we will continue to have heavy tariffs placed on us in the Japanese market, with tariffs for signatories immediately dropping to 27% and eventually to 9% while we would remain at a 38.5% tariff. Since Alberta is the largest beef producing province in Canada, the economic impact of this lost opportunity would be felt most in this province.

If we sign on to the CPTPP, we will be able to immediately see a reduction in the Japanese tariff on Canadian beef trade from the current 38.5% to 27% which is Australia's current level. This would also give us an 11% tariff advantage over the U.S. With our participation in the CPTPP, the Canadian Cattlemen's Association is confident that our beef export sales to Japan would increase by over \$200 million per year, with potential for more beef exports into other signatories of the CPTPP.

The CPTPP not only represents a critically important and valuable opportunity for our beef industry, but also is completely consistent with your government's objectives to increase exports from Alberta to Pacific Rim countries. We respectfully request that the Government of Alberta strongly support



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Canada signing on to the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership to ensure our competitiveness in the world market. If you wish to discuss our request further or have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charlie Christie".

Charlie Christie  
Chair

Cc: Honorable Oneil Carlier, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry  
Honourable Rachel Notley, Premier of Alberta