*Place on Letterhead from your Operations*

September XX, 2019

Insert Candidate Name

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

Address Line 3

Address Line 4

Dear Local Candidate Name,

Congratulations on your candidacy (*to continue as OR to be)* the Member of Parliament for the Riding of (*insert Riding name*). I am a constituent in this Riding and a cattle feeder (*insert details of your operations).* I am also a member of the National Cattle Feeders’ Association (NCFA).

*(If this letter is to an MP with a significant presence of cattle feeders in the Riding, details can be added here.)*

*(If this letter is to an incumbent who has been supportive of the sector in the past, you can insert a line to thank them here.)*

My operation is part of the Canadian beef industry, which generates $9.4 billion in farm cash receipts annually. Each year, the beef industry contributes $18 billion to Canada’s national GDP and is responsible for 228,000 jobs. Each one of these jobs supports another 3.56 jobs elsewhere in the economy.

Below, I have outlined the top priorities for cattle feeders in our Riding and across Canada. **I respectfully request a short written reply, if possible. Alternatively, I invite you to tour my operations or come to my farm for a “kitchen table conversation”** with myself and other agriculture producers the Riding.

**Issue: Labour Shortages**

A chronic shortage of labour is the single largest challenge confronting Canadian agriculture. The current labour gap is 63,000 workers—double from 31,500 ten years ago—and is projected to reach over 114,000 by 2025. Despite exhaustive efforts, farmers cannot find enough Canadian workers to take on these important jobs and thus rely on the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP). However, the TFWP is burdensome, inefficient and costly and does not meet the needs of Canadian farmers looking for full-time, year-round and long-term workers.

*(Insert examples of your own experience with labour shortages and foreign workers.)*

*If elected, will you and your party commit to a long-term solution, beyond the Temporary Foreign Workers program, for Canadian farmers to access foreign labour that reflects the unique needs of the sector?*

**Issue: Rural Infrastructure**

The lack of a strong rural infrastructure foundation is a significant barrier to growth for the beef sector. Most agriculture operations are located in small rural municipalities with a limited tax base to support infrastructure needed to get agriculture products to market. While the total federal government infrastructure funding envelope is significant, there is limited federal funding to support infrastructure in Canada’s agricultural and rural communities.

*(Insert an example of rural infrastructure needs in your Riding.)*

*If elected, what will you and your party do to ensure support for rural infrastructure required to deliver agriculture products to the market competitively, and make living in rural Canada more appealing to potential workers?*

**Regulatory and Taxation Barriers**

It is critical that federal regulatory requirements keep pace with industry innovation. If Canadian regulations and regulators do not keep pace with sector developments, the business environment deteriorates and the ability of Canadian farmers to compete in global markets is compromised. In addition, federal and provincial tax pressures are eroding the competiveness and diminishing the long-term viability of the cattle feeding sector.

*(Insert example of a regulatory challenge you have experienced and its economic impact.)*

*If elected, what will you and your party do to modernize federal regulations to keep pace with the highly innovative and technology-based Canadian agriculture sector? What will you and your party do to create a competitive business tax regime?*

**International Market Access**

The Canadian beef industry exports up to 45% of all cattle and beef we produce, and about 75% of that is destined for the United States. As a result, the ratification of Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) is a priority. At the same time, future growth of the Canadian beef industry is heavily dependent on expanding international market access. The Asia Pacific region offers enormous opportunities, but only if we have the same access as our global competitors.

*(Insert example of the international markets your operation depends upon.)*

*If elected, will you and your party take immediate action to resolve trade barriers with China, ratify the CUSMA, and open priority markets?*

I look forward to your timely response to my questions, and if elected, look forward to the opportunity to work with you and your team on these mutual priorities.

Sincerely,

Insert Name and contact information