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December 17, 2025

Janice Tranberg
President and Chief Executive Officer
National Cattle Feeders' Association
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Dear Janice Tranberg:

Thank you for your October 29, 2025, email providing a copy of the National Cattle Feeders' Association (NCFA) and Canadian Cattle Association (CCA)'s joint submission to the Government of Canada's consultations on the operation of the Canada-United States (US)-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA). I understand that the Honourable RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, has already responded. As Minister of Jobs, Economy, Trade and Immigration, I am also pleased to provide the following information.

The Government of Alberta recognizes and shares the serious concerns presented in your submission to Ottawa. This includes your description of the compounding negative impacts of US tariffs and other American policies such as regulations for country-of-origin labelling, on Canada's agriculture and agri-food sectors. These policies act as impediments to the free flow of cross border trade and undermine the beneficial integration of the North American supply chain including processed beef, live cattle, feed and inputs. We share your views on the important contribution of Canada's beef industry to the nation's economy and the importance of North American trading relationships to the industry's success.

The Government of Alberta supports free, open and unimpeded trade with all our trading partners. Tariffs, including retaliatory ones, on both Canadian and US goods are damaging to both sides' economies, industries and consumers, and serve to weaken one of the most important global trade alliances. Federal and provincial/territorial governments must collaborate with industry stakeholders and engage with our trading partners, especially the US and Mexico, to reinforce the benefits of the CUSMA and the need to remove tariffs and other barriers to trade.

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Alberta's economy depends on stable, rules-based North American trade supported by the preferential tariff-free market access set out in the CUSMA. Recent US trade actions have negatively impacted many industries in Alberta, including the agriculture and agri-food sector. We agree with CCA and NCFA that the upcoming 2026 CUSMA review should focus on a Team Canada approach that ensures that no further trade restricting measures are implemented, and existing market access is retained. The Government of Alberta will also work with the Government of Canada and the other provinces and territories to ensure that efforts to reduce internal trade barriers in Canada are in accordance with Canadian international trade obligations, including those set out in the CUSMA, to minimize the risk of further retaliatory trade actions that negatively impact agricultural exports.

The Government of Alberta supports the Government of Canada's objective of doubling Canadian non-US exports over the next decade. In 2024, Alberta exported goods valued at \$183 billion to a total of 189 countries globally. \$162 billion was exported to the US, amounting to almost 89 per cent of Alberta's total exports. Alberta stands to benefit from the diversification of its exports, including its agricultural and agri-food exports, to lessen the risks associated with this significant reliance on the US market.

Like CCA and NCFA, Alberta's government is ready to work with the federal government, other provincial governments and stakeholders to minimize the negative impact of US tariffs and non-tariff barriers, including country-of-origin initiatives and state-level animal welfare regulations, on Canadian agriculture and agri-food products. This will include the province's active engagement with Ottawa during the CUSMA review process to ensure that Alberta's concerns, including those pertaining to trade in beef, are effectively communicated.

Thank you again for taking the time to share your joint submission. We look forward to continuing to work closely with CCA and NCFA on advocating for Canada's interests, especially those impacting the beef industry, during the upcoming CUSMA review.

Sincerely,



Honourable Joseph Schow
Minister of Jobs, Economy, Trade and Immigration

cc: Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation