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United States Senate

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October 25, 2017

The Honorable Zhong Shan
Minister of Commerce
Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China
No.2 Dong Chang'an Avenue
Beijing, China (100731)

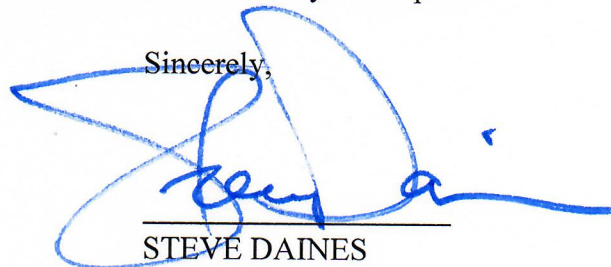
Dear Minister Zhong:

I write in support the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Montana Stockgrowers Association cooperators, Cross Four Ranch, internet retailer JD.com, and the Bank of China that was recently submitted to the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China in advance of President Trump and President Xi meeting in November. I appreciate the substantial interest JD.com has expressed in purchasing high quality Montana-sourced beef and in investing in Montana agriculture and request that you give the MOU full consideration.

As you know, the lifting of the ban on U.S. beef exports to China was a significant moment, and I thank you for your efforts towards that end. In fact, my two recent high-level congressional delegations that I led to China specifically focused on lifting the ban on U.S. beef. It is important that we build on that momentum and seek opportunities to meet Chinese consumers demand for high quality Montana-sourced and U.S. beef, and I believe this MOU has the potential to do so. Additionally, last month I hosted Ambassador Cui Tiankai and a Chinese delegation in Montana where I helped facilitate connections between Montana farmers and ranchers and interested buyers. Developing these relationships will be critical to expanding opportunities for both farmers and ranchers in Montana and China's growing middle class.

Montana produces some of the highest quality cattle, grain, and agricultural products in the world and our producers are ready and willing to help meet China's growing demand. I appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES
United States Senator