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April 2, 2020

Jovita Carranza
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street, SW
Washington, DC 20416

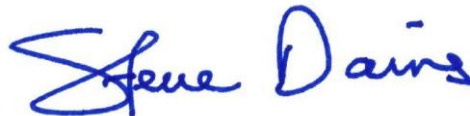
Dear Administrator Carranza:

I write to you to urge the Small Business Administration (SBA) to ensure that agricultural businesses are eligible to participate in the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program and the Payment Protection Program (PPP) as SBA moves forward with implementing the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. I appreciate the work SBA is doing to assist small businesses in Montana and across the country in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is important that agricultural businesses are able to participate in both EIDL and PPP.

As you know, farmers, ranchers, and agricultural businesses in Montana and across the country are facing substantial market challenges due to the pandemic. Without appropriate and prompt relief, agricultural businesses are at-risk of shuttering and endangering both our food supply and national security. Small businesses, whether they are involved in agriculture or otherwise, need assistance in these unprecedented times and SBA can play an integral role in mitigating disruptions to our nation's food supply and our economy more broadly. With that in mind, as you work to implement SBA-related provisions of the CARES Act and issue clarifying guidance, it is essential that agricultural businesses are eligible to participate in EIDL, PPP, and other important SBA programs.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to continuing to work with you on this and other critical issues.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES
United States Senator