

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 11, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
The Capitol, S-230
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
The Capitol, S-221
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol, H-232
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol, H-204
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

As Congress considers legislation related to the coronavirus outbreak, we respectfully request your consideration of additional funding and resources to assist North Carolina pork producers facing unprecedented circumstances as a result of market disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the first reported cases of COVID-19 in the U.S., hog futures have fallen by over 30 percent because of ongoing demand loss from restaurant closures. Additionally, due to COVID-19 outbreaks within the workforce, processing facilities have reduced operations or temporarily closed. These capacity reductions are having severe impacts at the other end of the supply chain, where pork producers on the farm have no outlet for their animals. Consequently, producers are forced to make unfathomable decisions to euthanize their animals.

The President's Executive Order is now improving the outlook for processing capacity, but the consequences of plant disruptions will continue to ripple through the pork supply chain for months. If uncompensated for these forced losses, pork producers may be put out of business, with devastating consequences for our rural, agriculture dependent communities.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that additional resources to assist North Carolina producers in these challenging times be prioritized in any potential forthcoming legislation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/ Richard Burr
Richard Burr
United States Senator

/s/ Thom Tillis
Thom Tillis
United States Senator

/s/ David Rouzer
David Rouzer
Member of Congress

/s/ Dan Bishop
Dan Bishop
Member of Congress

/s/ Richard Hudson
Richard Hudson
Member of Congress

/s/ Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.
Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.
Member of Congress