



October 3, 2018

Dear Ms. Andreychuk,

Our organizations represent the Canadian value chain of beef and pork producers and processors. We are united in requesting that the Senate pursue the objective of reviewing and approving the legislation to implement the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) on a timeline that will 1) enable Canada to be one of the first six nations to ratify the agreement and 2) bring the agreement into force before December 31, 2018.

We were very pleased to see the House of Commons move very efficiently to pass Bill C79 on return for the Fall session. Second reading commenced on September 17, the first day the House resumed sitting and was referred to the Standing Committee on International Trade. Committee held two hearings on September 20 and 25, approved the legislation and reported back to the House on Sept 26. We are hopeful C79 will pass third reading in the House this week and be introduced in the Senate as soon as possible.

Canadian beef and pork exporters would benefit greatly if the agreement can come into force and we enjoy the first tariff cut on our products before the end of 2018. If we achieve the first cut in 2018, even if it is the last day of the year, we will then receive the second tariff cut on January 1, 2019.

For the agreement to come into force by December 31, 2018, six of the signatory countries must inform the CPTPP Secretariat in New Zealand by November 1 (October 31 on the Canada side of the International Date Line). Our hope is that the Senate could review the bill and approve it in time for Royal Assent and transmission of our notification to New Zealand. If we miss this timeline by even one day, then the tariff reduction schedule on our exported beef and pork is pushed back a full year. This represents money in the pockets of Canadian farmers that we cannot afford to lose.

Mexico, Japan and Singapore have already completed their domestic ratification processes and notified the CPTPP Secretariat.

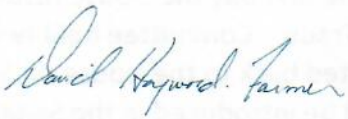
We understand Australia is moving quickly to complete its process and notify the Secretariat before the end of October. Likewise, Chile, Brunei, Peru and New Zealand all appear to be moving on a similar timeline. If any one of these countries plus Canada join Australia in completing ratification before the end of October, then we can benefit from two tariff cuts by January 1, 2019.

This scenario depends on the Senate of Canada striving for expeditious ratification of the CPTPP. To meet this ambitious objective, we recommend minimal to no further witness testimony at the Committee stage. In lieu of further testimony, we would bring to your attention the testimony that the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, Canadian Meat Council, Canadian Pork Council and Canada Pork International have already provided to the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry during its meetings of March 29, 2018 and June 7, 2018.

We also support the testimony of former International Trade Minister Champagne at Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade on February 7, 2018.

In conclusion, we believe the CPTPP is an important agreement for the full value chain of the Canadian red meat sector from farmer to processor and time is of the essence to pass the implementing legislation. We are grateful for the advance study of the CPTPP already conducted by individual Senators, the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade and the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Forestry. We believe this advance work goes a long way to ensuring that further lengthy study is unnecessary and passage can proceed expeditiously.

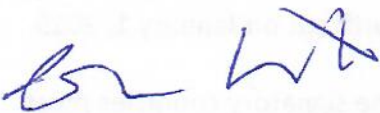
Sincerely,



David Haywood-Farmer
President, Canadian Cattlemen's
Association



Rick Bergmann
President, Canadian Pork Council



Chris White
President, Canadian Meat Council



Ryan Thompson
Chair, National Cattle Feeders' Association