



National Bison Association

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Urge Your Senators and Representatives to Help Us Stop Mislabeling

August 7, 2019

Dear South Dakota Bison Leaders,

Congress is out for the August recess, so I am writing to request your help in some important constituent contact while they are at home over the next month.

We are in the final stages of working with Sens. John Hoeven (R-ND) and Michael Bennet (D-CO) to introduce legislation to outlaw the deceptive labeling of water buffalo meat and ingredients in the U.S. marketplace. Our final step prior to introduction is to line up as many original sponsors for the bill as we can.

We need your help to reach out to some key leaders to sign onto the bill during the August recess.

The South Dakota delegation is pivotal to this effort. It's vital that we get them all to sign on. In addition to being the heart of bison country, Sen. Thune is the Majority Whip in the Senate, so a key gatekeeper (and strong ally).

The Senators and Representatives will be having Town Halls and other meet-and-greet events over the next month. If possible, try to connect with them while they are home. You can call their local offices to find a time to connect with them. Otherwise, try to reach out through their D.C. office.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Here is some information on reaching them via their in-state offices.

Sen. Thune has three in-state offices:

- Aberdeen – 605.225.8823
- Rapid City – 605.348.7551
- Sioux Falls – 605.334.9596

His agricultural aide is Lynn Tjeerdsma (and a good friend of the NBA),
lynn_tjeerdsma@thune.senate.gov.

Sen. Mike Rounds has four in-state offices:

- Aberdeen – 605.225.0366
- Pierre – 605.224.1450
- Rapid City – 605.343.5035
- Sioux Falls – 605.336.0486

His agricultural aide is Logan Penfield, logan_penfield@rounds.senate.gov.

Rep. Dusty Johnson lists only the phone number for his Aberdeen office:

- Aberdeen – 605.225.8823

His agricultural aide is John Weber, john.weber@mail.house.gov.

Don't hesitate to reach out to any of the rest of the delegation, if you have any connections with them. If you need phone numbers, please reach out to me at david@bisoncentral.com. And, if you get names and email addresses for the key ag contacts, please send along.

And, staff members tend to turn over, so let me know if the contact info I've provided is outdated.

YOUR MESSAGE

Please send those contacts a copy of the [attached white paper](#), which includes the draft Senate legislation. The House version will be identical.

Here are the key talking points.

- Mention that U.S. bison producers have been seriously harmed by imports of cheap, deceptively labeled water buffalo meat and pet food ingredients.

(Senate Side)

- U.S. Sens. John Hoeven (R-ND) and Michael Bennet (D-CO) are preparing to introduce legislation (included in the attached white paper) to prohibit this deceptive practice.
- This legislation has been reviewed by FDA.
- We want to urge the Senator to sign on as an original sponsor of this bill.
- Please contact Savannah Block in Sen. Hoeven's office (Savannah_Block@hoeven.senate.gov) to sign onto the bill.

(House Side)

- Senators John Hoeven (R-ND) and Michael Bennet (D-CO) have prepared legislation (included in the attached white paper) for introduction in the Senate. This legislation has been reviewed by FDA.
- We want to introduce a companion bill in the House of Representatives, but need to have strong bipartisan support, particularly from western and Midwest Representatives.
- We want to urge the Representative to sign on as an original sponsor of this bill.
- If the Representative is willing to sponsor, please let NBA Executive Director Dave Carter know at david@bisoncentral.com. Mr. Carter will reach out immediately after the August recess to work with your office on this issue.

Let me know of any questions you have.

All the Best,

Dave Carter

Dave Carter

Executive Director

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