



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

May 11, 2021

Mr. Dave Carter
Executive Director
National Bison Association
8690 Wolff Court
Suite 200
Westminster, Colorado 80031

Dear Mr. Carter:

Thank you for your well-wishes on my confirmation to serve as the 32nd Secretary of the USDA. I am honored to serve once again with the 90,000 talented and committed professionals at USDA. Together, we will work tirelessly to address inequity and inequality, meet the moment on climate and nutrition insecurity, build fairer markets and stronger rural communities, and contain the pandemic.

Within the last year, the United States has been challenged in ways not seen in recent decades. The world has been beset by the current pandemic and we have a lot of work in front of us to mitigate its impact on U.S. agriculture and families all over the world.

In the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production. We are seeking fairer markets for all producers and ensuring access to healthy and nutritious food in all communities. Our goal is to build new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers by using climate smart food and forestry practices. We are committed to making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural communities and creating equity across the Department.

Thank you as well for requesting priority be given to eliminating the 20 percent tariff on U.S. bison meat in the trade negotiations with the European Union and the United Kingdom.

The USDA is working closely with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative to ensure U.S. exports of bison have greater market access abroad. The information you provided to USDA will be useful in our considerations on how to address market access concerns and competitiveness determinations with the European Union and the United Kingdom.

I appreciate your support in eliminating trade barriers for U.S. exports of bison meat.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas J. Vilsack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary