Dear ,

           As set forth in the attached [Protect American Lamb: Petition for Relief by America’s Sheep Producers](https://www.r-calfusa.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/230803-Combined-Cover-Letter-and-Sheep-Petition.pdf)*,* full-time U.S. sheep producers, who continue suffering serious injury, are facing the prospect of near total extinction due to the unrestrained and ever-increasing importation of foreign lamb and mutton that do not meet the United States more stringent production standards.

            These lower-cost imports originate from Australia and New Zealand and are displacing U.S. production of lamb and mutton at an alarming pace; and creating what soon will be an irreversible dependency on foreign supply chains for an important American staple. As revealed by the charts and data in the petition, this is by no means an exaggeration. Only with immediate intervention by the Administration and Congress can the impending, catastrophic outcome be averted.

            Since the time the U.S. entered its first major free trade agreement – the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement – lamb and mutton imports have increased over 543% in quantity and 2,363% in value. These imports have displaced domestic lamb and mutton production, which has declined 60% during this period. And despite America’s marked increase in lamb and mutton consumption that began in earnest a decade ago, all the increase has been captured by foreign supply chains while domestic production continually declines. These foreign supply chains have now captured 74% of the domestic market – away from full-time U.S. sheep producers.

            The petition describes the serious injury mounting imports are having on our domestic sheep industry and the Addendum to the petition includes numerous testimonials from our nation’s full-time sheep producers that explicitly describes the untenable market conditions they continually face.

            We respectfully request the Administration and Congress carefully review this petition and initiate immediate action to protect America’s lamb producers. Thank you for your consideration and please contact me at your earliest convenience to discuss how we may assist you in achieving the corrective actions needed.

Sincerely,