



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VII
901 NORTH 5TH STREET
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

AUG 01 2012

OFFICE OF
THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Mike Johanns
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Johanns:

Along with Karen Flournoy and Ron Hammerschmidt, my Water Division and Environmental Services directors, and Josh Svaty, my senior adviser for agricultural issues, I had a very good conversation Monday, July 30, with key staff and board members of Nebraska Cattlemen at their Lincoln office about the Environmental Protection Agency's work with cattle producers on Clean Water Act compliance. Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality director Mike Linder and his key staff also attended.

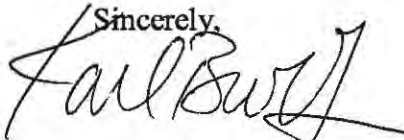
I suggested during the meeting to Michael Kelsey and Kristen Hassebrook that a further, equally productive, conversation about Nebraska CAFOs and the Clean Water Act ought to be held with members of the Nebraska delegation. I'm contacting you because you and your staff have been most involved in the continuing discussion about the EPA's use of a light airplane to improve CAFO evaluations and minimize both agency and producer expenses. Although I am sure that drought-related meetings will occupy much of your in-state time during the August recess, I propose that my staff and I meet with you, either individually or at a mutually convenient time and place for all delegation members. For planning purposes, I believe August 22 or 23 would be available for us to travel to Nebraska for this conversation.

I am copying Mike Linder because by the time this item came up at our Nebraska Cattlemen meeting, he had to leave for another appointment. I am very hopeful Mike and his key CAFO and Clean Water Act staff can join us.

Although a face-to-face conversation would probably be best, we can certainly work with you to arrange one by either phone or videoconference. For planning purposes, I suggest we dedicate at least an hour to this meeting. I also believe some form of agenda might improve the meeting's productivity, but am certainly willing to have a more open-ended conversation.



As always, if you or your staff has additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact us directly. I can be reached at 913-551-7006 or your staff may contact Sarah Hatch, Congressional Liaison, at 913-551-7199. Again, I look forward to potentially speaking with you directly about this or other matters during your August recess.

Sincerely,


Karl Brooks

cc: Mike Linder, NDEQ
Kristen Hassebrook, Nebraska Cattlemen, Inc.
Michael Kelsey, Nebraska Cattlemen, Inc.