

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 29, 2020

Makan Delrahim  
Assistant Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW,  
Washington, DC 20530

RE: Proposed Acquisition of Mountain States Rosen by JBS USA Holdings, Inc.

Dear Mr. Delrahim,

On behalf of consumers and sheep ranchers across our five states, we write to bring your attention to an acquisition that may irreversibly harm competition in the domestic lamb market.

On Friday this week, JBS USA Holdings, Inc. (“JBS”), the American subsidiary of Brazilian JBS S.A., will close on its acquisition of a Mountain States Rosen (“MSR”) lamb processing facility in Greeley, CO.

JBS, one of the world’s largest meat processing companies, is the largest importer of lamb in the United States. MSR is a cooperative owned by more than 145 American families. Reports tell us that its Greeley facility is the second largest lamb packaging plant in the United States, processing approximately 350,000 lambs annually, over 6,000 per week, with an annual capacity of nearly 800,000. MSR accounts for about one-fifth of the entire U.S. lamb market.

We understand that JBS is not the first potential buyer to express interest in the MSR facility. An earlier interested buyer intended to continue operating MSR’s Greeley facility and even expand its capacity. However, it appears that after submitting a winning bid during bankruptcy proceedings, JBS is preparing to completely shut down all lamb processing at the site. It is our understanding that JBS intends to permanently destroy all of the lamb processing equipment as soon as this week.

This is alarming for several reasons. In addition to eliminating hundreds of jobs, MSR’s Greeley facility is one of the largest lamb processing facilities in the region, and serves sheep ranchers from 15 states, including Utah, Montana, South Dakota, Wyoming, and California. This facility competes head-to-head with JBS, which imports all of its lamb products. Through this acquisition, JBS will eliminate a major domestic competitor in the region and could replace significant quantities of the American-raised lamb with imported products. Industry experts tell us that the lamb processing market does not have the capacity to absorb the lambs currently going to MSR. Approximately 15-20% of the US Supply may not find a processor when they are ready for market. We are told that many of these family operated sheep ranches in the Western states may go out of business after this deal, costing the lamb industry potentially hundreds of millions of dollars per year.

We urge you to immediately open an investigation into this acquisition and take appropriate steps to prevent irreversible actions that might harm the ability of American sheep ranchers to get their products to market until the Department can determine how best to protect competition in this significant part of America's food supply.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter, and please do not hesitate to reach out to any of our offices with questions.

Regards,



Michael Lee  
United States Senator



Steve Daines  
United States Senator



John Barrasso  
United States Senator



Mitt Romney  
United States Senator



John Thune  
United States Senator



M. Michael Rounds  
United States Senator



Chris Stewart  
United States Representative



Greg Gianforte  
United States Representative



Rob Bishop  
United States Representative



Devin Nunes  
United States Representative



Dusty Johnson  
United States Representative



Liz Cheney  
United States Representative

Cc: Mr. Stephen Censky, Deputy Secretary, United States Department of Agriculture