



May 28, 2021

The Honorable Merrick Garland  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Attorney General Garland,

One year ago, the Department of Justice announced an investigation into potential price disparities and anticompetitive practices in the live cattle market, including the disparity between live cattle prices and boxed beef prices. Since that time, there has been no update on the status or findings of this investigation. As our cattle producers have awaited the results of your investigation, they have also faced extreme market disruptions, supply chain disruptions, limited price discovery, delayed cattle delivery times, and increased feed costs.

Iowa is a leader in livestock production and processing. Our cattle producers take great pride in raising the high-quality beef that processors and consumers demand. Yet, their continued success largely depends upon a competitive and transparent marketplace. A conclusion of this investigation presents an opportunity for the Department to provide increased market transparency while fostering a continued healthy relationship between cattle producers and processors.

In an effort to protect and promote the long-term viability of independent cattle producers, I respectfully request that the Department of Justice complete this investigation and report its findings as promptly as possible.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Naig".

Mike Naig  
Iowa Secretary of Agriculture