[Dear Minister/Mr./Ms./Mrs. ,]

As a [cattle rancher, feedlot owner, etc.] who resides in your riding, I am writing to you to express my concern for the current rail transportation work stoppage.

The 2021 drought was devastating to the livestock sector because of its widespread severity, leaving feed shortages for most producers. Luckily, some eastern Canadian provinces and American states had excellent crops, allowing producers to transport record amounts of grain to feed their stock. However, even with these shipments, many producers are unable to procure stock feed, resulting in minimal stored reserves.

Through Canadian Cattlemen’s Association and National Cattle Feeders’ Association, I have learned that **feed supplies will run out in 1-2 weeks – causing serious animal welfare implications.**

To prevent an agricultural disaster, you and [Party of MP] must push the Government of Canada to immediately declare rail services essential and invoke ‘back to work’ legislation, driving both parties into binding arbitration.

Farmers and ranchers in Alberta and Saskatchewan are currently feeding 1.1 million head of cattle. In Alberta alone, 9-10 trains of grain per week are required to feed these cattle. Over 1,000 trucks would be needed to replace the volume of grain currently being brought by CP trains, and due to capacity challenges, this is not even a possibility.

[I personally, (add individual comment or remove)]

The beef industry is a leading economic driver, contributing more than $21 billion to the Canadian GDP and generating approximately 347,000 jobs. We need to keep it sustainable, not only for the supply chain, but for all Canadians.

It is unethical to allow this dispute to prevent animals from being fed. I am concerned about the industry, and the welfare of our animals.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Address]