

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3102**

February 12, 2021

Kevin Shae, Acting Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Mr. Shae,

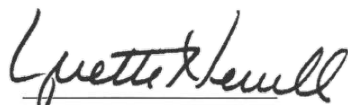
I write to you today regarding the decision by Secretary Perdue, in his final days in office, to pass the Importation of Sheep, Goats, and Certain Other Ruminants rule, also known as the Scrapie Rule. This rule was first proposed in July 2016, but was not acted upon as the industry worked with the department to provide greater protections for domestic lamb producers.

I am concerned that despite pleas from the industry and domestic producers, the rule was allowed to go ahead. The rule will allow imports from countries that have high government supports, including from the United Kingdom (UK). Materials imported from these countries could be scrapie positive, creating a herd health issue domestically, where we have almost completely eradicated scrapie.

The rule does not accurately consider its economic consequences. The economic analysis contained in the rule is almost a decade out of date and the economic situation has changed quite considerably in just the last few months. For example, the UK, who would be a prime beneficiary of this rule exited the European Union as of the end of 2020. The UK will now be allowed to enter into a free trade agreement with the United States, which with this rule in place would be extremely detrimental to our domestic producers.

I ask that you reassess this rule and consider the new economic circumstances that now exist. We should place domestic producers first and not import lamb from potentially dangerous and heavily subsidized markets.

Sincerely,



Yvette Herrell  
Member of Congress