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### **Congressman Mark Amodei Joins ASI Convention as Producers Advance Trade, Animal Health, and Wool Priorities**

*Amodei joined ASI leaders and producers for on-the-ground discussions tied to the trade, workforce, and practical policy needs facing U.S. sheep operations.*

RENO, Nev. (Jan. 31, 2026) – The American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) welcomed Congressman Mark Amodei (R-NV) to the 2026 ASI Annual Convention in Reno, where 425 attendees participated in 60+ meetings spanning policy, markets, animal health, genetics, and the wool supply chain.

Amodei delivered a Washington update during ASI’s Board of Directors Informational Session, an annual “big picture” briefing that helps producers align on fast-moving issues and turn complexity into practical next steps. ASI thanked Amodei for showing up in person and for his continued engagement on issues that directly affect sheep operations, including imported lamb pressure and the need for fair competition.

“Sheep people don’t ask for special treatment, they ask for a fair shot, and they show up to do the work,” said ASI President Ben Lehfeltd. “We’re grateful Congressman Amodei took the time to be in the room with producers, listen to what’s happening on the ground, and support a level playing field for America’s sheep farms and ranches.”

Convention week also reinforced the urgency behind ASI’s ongoing import-related work. ASI previously submitted a formal request urging federal action to address harmful lamb import surges, citing market data showing imports rose from 213.6 million pounds (2020) to 309.3 million pounds (2024), a more than 40% increase, with imports accounting for roughly 70% of the domestic market in 2024.

Amodei’s engagement with ASI aligns with broader congressional attention to the issue. His introduction of H.R. 7276, a bill titled: *“To impose a 30 percent duty on sheep products and lamb products from Australia or New Zealand” on January 30<sup>th</sup>, the same day he spoke to ASI’s members, is a prime example of Congress’ increased focus on the major challenges our industry continues to face.*

In addition to policy sessions, ASI members demonstrated strong support for advocacy through the convention’s RAMPAC Fundraiser, the association’s political action committee event, raising

new funds to assist in our industry's efforts to politically support those who share our values and desire for a level playing field.

"This convention is where we bring producers, partners, and policymakers into the same conversation because the best decisions are grounded in real operations and real numbers," said Tammy Fisher, ASI Secretary/Treasurer. "We appreciate leaders like Congressman Amodei who take time to hear directly from the people raising sheep and producing American wool and lamb every day."

#### *About ASI*

The American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) is the national trade association representing the interests of more than 80,000 sheep producers in the United States. ASI advances sheep production through advocacy, research, education, predator management support, animal health initiatives, and market development.

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