



October 19, 2021

Scott G. Hernandez
Regional Field Administrator
Western Service Center – Service Center Region
12600 W. Colfax Ave. Suite B-300
Lakewood, CO 80215

Re: Extension Request for Relief from CFR 49 Parts 390-399 under Executive Order 2021-15

Dear Mr. Hernandez,

The State of North Dakota declared a drought emergency on April 8, 2021, under Executive Order 2021-08. The 2021 drought emergency is the worst drought on record. North Dakota's agribusinesses have been adversely and significantly impacted, forcing ranchers and livestock producers to find supplemental feed and water supplies from areas where water and hay inventories are more plentiful.

On Aug. 9, 2021, we issued Executive Order 2021-13, which provided relief from federal motor carrier regulations, to assist commercial haulers supplying our state's ranchers with hay and water supplies. The order expired on September 9.

On September 22, we issued Executive Order 2021-15, which provided relief from CFR 49 Parts 390-399 for our state's livestock, hay and water suppliers. North Dakota farmers, ranchers and livestock producers continue to struggle to get adequate hay and water supplies to sustain livestock herds as nearly 90% of the state remains in moderate, severe extreme or exceptional drought conditions.

The state of drought emergency has had an unprecedented impact on our state's livestock industry. According to the North Dakota Stockmen's Association, auction markets where the association maintains brand inspection have experienced a 24% increase in sales. As of July, North Dakota ranchers had already sold 148,000 cows, compared with an average of 200,000 for the entire year.

As our ranchers continue working to ensure adequate hay and water supplies to sustain livestock herds through the winter, please consider this formal request for a 90-day

extension of relief from CFR 49 Parts 390-399 currently in effect under Executive Order 2021-15. Relief from these regulations under 49 CFR 390.23 ensures that carriers, agribusiness, farmers, ranchers and other consumers can secure, obtain and transport livestock, hay and water supplies.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Doug Burgum". The signature is stylized with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Doug Burgum