[To whom it may concern]

As a [cattle rancher, feedlot owner, etc.] who resides in your riding, I am writing to you to express my concern for the potential strike action by CP Rail employees.

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 US states had excellent crops, allowing producers to transport record amounts of grain to feed their stock. 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 **if a CP Rail strike is to occur, 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 encourage both CP Rail and Teamster Canada Rail Conference (TCRC) to reach a solution prior to **March 16**. If a solution cannot be reached the [Party] must push for both parties to move directly to binding arbitration to avoid the strike.

If a strike occurs despite our efforts, the Government of Canada must immediately declare rail services essential and invoke ‘back to work’ legislation, forcing 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. This is not a realistic solution.

[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. It would unjust if feed was available to producers, but the dispute prevented animals from being fed. I am concerned about the industry and the welfare of its animals.

Regards,

[Name]

[Address]