

May 5, 2020

The Honorable David Bernhardt
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Bernhardt:

On behalf of the American Farm Bureau Federation, the nation's largest general farm organization, I am writing to extend a personal invitation to you to address a special gathering AFBF is hosting later this year.

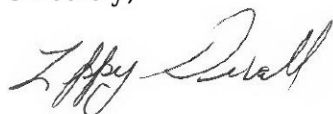
On July 14 and 15, Farm Bureau presidents from all fifty states and Puerto Rico will convene for a Council of the Presidents. This event will be the highlight of our calendar this year, and I would be very grateful if you could address the group. We will do everything possible to accommodate your schedule and are prepared to hear from you either the morning or afternoon of July 14 or July 15.

Because of the unique circumstances of the current national emergency, this Council of the Presidents will be a 'virtual' meeting, not a physical gathering. Our information technology experts will be pleased to consult with your own staff in coordinating your participation in this event.

With all the challenges farmers and ranchers have faced this year, Farm Bureau has never had a better friend or champion in the Department of the Interior. As Secretary, you have undertaken critical work in many areas, in particular the commitment to multiple use management of America's public lands, regulatory efforts to reform the outdated and ineffective Endangered Species Act, streamlining the National Environmental Policy Act, and the modernization of grazing regulations to provide regulatory certainty for federal livestock permittees and to ensure the health of our nation's rangelands. I know our presidents would not only be interested to see and hear from you on issues of common interest but also to express their appreciation for the leadership and support you have demonstrated during these trying times.

I hope your schedule will permit you to join us at this event. We will follow up with your staff in hopes of securing your acceptance of this invitation. Please contact Paul Schlegel (pauls@fb.org) or (b) (6) or Valeria Zavala (valeriaz@fb.org) or (b) (6) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



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