

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

July 13, 2004

The Honorable Ann Veneman
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Madam Secretary:

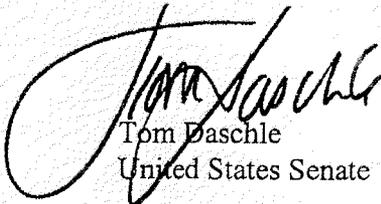
We write to formally invite you to our state.

Agriculture is the number one industry in South Dakota. Farming, ranching, agri-businesses and agriculture-related businesses are impacted every day by decisions made by your Department. In that regard, we hope you will accept our invitation to visit South Dakota. Spending time with rural residents in our state will help give you a sense of some of the important issues confronting these individuals and the communities in which they live. Issues such as disaster assistance, country-of-origin labeling, trade agreements (like the Australian Free Trade Agreement), border issues with Canada, and other matters are all policy discussions that we believe would benefit both you and our constituents.

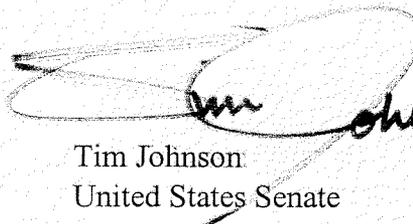
We would be pleased to have our staff coordinate with your office to ensure the maximum attendance during your visit. We hope that you will see fit to visit South Dakota soon.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

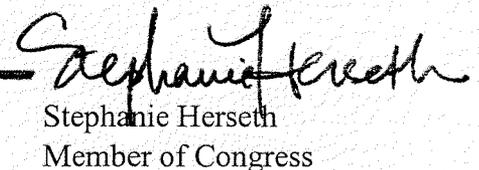
Sincerely,



Tom Daschle
United States Senate



Tim Johnson
United States Senate



Stephanie Herseth
Member of Congress