

California State Senate

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FORTIETH SENATE DISTRICT



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February 12, 2014

Robert Perdue
Executive Officer
Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board
73720 Fred Waring Dr., Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260

RE: National Beef Plant Closure

Dear Mr. Perdue:

As the Senator of California's 40th Senate District, my priority is to protect jobs and the local economy. As you know, the City of Brawley and the Imperial County are facing the possible loss of 1300 jobs as a result of the National Beef Plant's (NBP) announcement of their closure in April. This will have devastating effects in the region.

I, along with the County of Imperial, the City of Brawley, the Imperial Irrigation District, the Cattlemen's Association and other stakeholders have met to identify the reasons for NBP's decision and creative ways to assist them so that these critical jobs are saved. NBP has identified the wastewater pre-treatment capital improvements schedule required by the water board as one of the main reasons why they need to close their business.

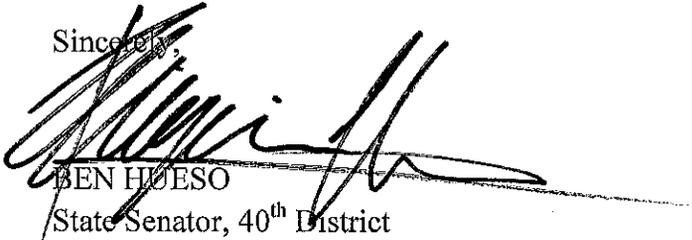
While I believe these capital improvements are necessary and important, I urge you to look at the schedule and delay enforcement for six-months in order to give all stakeholders the time to come up with a solution to effectively address the issues, while continuing efforts to improve water quality.

NBP is the single largest private employer in the Imperial County. If it closes its doors, more than 1,300 employees and their families will be immediately impacted. This will cripple Imperial County, which already suffers from the highest unemployment rate in the state.

In the interest of protecting a vulnerable community, I ask that you work with me, local agencies and NBP to enact this six-month moratorium. The Board's assistance is critical and we appreciate your prompt response.

Thank you for your consideration to this important matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 916-651-4040.

Sincerely,



BEN HUESO
State Senator, 40th District

BH/fs

Cc: Hon. Manuel Perez, Assemblymember, 56th District
Hon. Ryan Kelley, Imperial County Board of Supervisors
Hon. Don Campbell, Mayor, City of Brawley
Hon. Jim Hanks, President, Imperial Irrigation District
Kish Rajan, Director, Business and Economic Development Department
Panorea Avdis, Chief Deputy Director, Business and Economic Development Dept.
Matt Rodriguez, California Secretary for Environmental Protection
Billy Gatlin, Executive Vice President, California Cattlemen's Association