

California State Senate

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FORTIETH SENATE DISTRICT



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February 6, 2014

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: National Beef Plant Closure/1300 Employees

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of my constituents in Imperial County, I respectfully encourage you and your administration to offer relief to the City of Brawley following the recently announced April 2014 closure of National Beef California, LP.

National Beef's plant is the single largest private employer in Brawley. Its closure will immediately affect more than 1,300 National Beef employees and their families. This is a devastating blow to the economy of Imperial County, which already suffers from the highest unemployment rate in the state. Sadly, we expect further impacts:

- The local cattle industry and ancillary businesses which have grown with National Beef's local presence are now confronting fundamental changes to their business models and manpower needs.
- The City of Brawley will lose its most significant utility customer, representing 29% of water consumption revenues and 25% of wastewater revenues within city limits.
- National Beef Brawley will need to address a complex set of onsite conditions prior to moving.

Compounding matters, Brawley's local economy is already dealing with the ramifications of earlier events. The city was the epicenter of earthquake swarms in 2012 that destroyed homes and affected some of the most vulnerable residents of the community. Later that year, and into 2013, the local Main Street suffered a series of arson attacks that destroyed the downtown core.

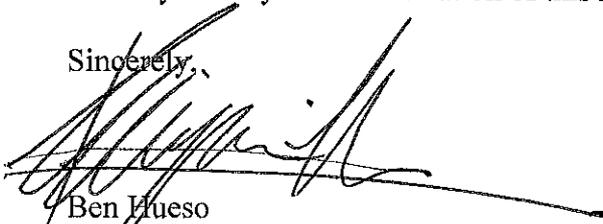


More recently, the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board settled upon a \$1million penalty against the city for retroactive wastewater and regulatory issues tied to National Beef.

I stand with the residents of the Imperial County and the City of Brawley today to ask for your assistance in keeping National Beef in our district. Furthermore, I respectfully extend an invitation to you and your office to visit Imperial County and connect with local leaders to discuss ways in which we can keep the beef plant open and keep 1,300 California workers employed.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and for your continued service to our great state.

Sincerely,



Ben Hueso
State Senate, 40th District

cc: Hon. Manuel Perez, Assemblymember, 56th District
Hon. Juan Vargas, House of Representatives, 51st District
Hon. John Renison, Chairman, 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
Matt Rodriguez, California Secretary for Environmental Protection
Ellen Way, Chairman, California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Billy Gatlin, Executive Vice President, California Cattlemen's Association