

Statement from Democratic Nominee for Congress Michael A. Chiaradio on the Trump Administration Waiving 'Out-of-Quota' Beef Tariffs for 90 Days

Last week, it was announced that up to 300,000 metric tons of product for ground beef would be permitted to enter the United States over 90 days without the out-of-quota tariff, with the stated goal of providing near-term relief for consumers while the domestic cattle herd rebuilds.

It is important to note that I am not automatically opposed to governments participating in the marketplace to achieve an outcome but the method of participation is an extremely important consideration. In this specific case, it would have been best for the administration not to participate in the cattle market at all.

The action was focused only on the consumer side of the economic equation and the timing disrupted many producers at a critical point in their production cycle.

The simple fact is, if we want any item to be more affordable over the long term, America needs policy that will drive production. Furthermore, to address other foundational issues in our economy, we should have as much of the increased production and capital formation as possible come via small and medium-sized producers.

If elected, I am prepared to introduce legislation that uses congressional authority to acquire idle and degraded land nationwide and redevelop it for agricultural production. That land would then be made available to small and medium-sized producers through long-term leases.

I am also prepared to propose legislation that substantially expands Farm Service Agency credit for land, livestock, equipment, and other operating capital. America needs to help existing small farmers and producers stay profitable and grow.

I am broadly committed to structuring policy that gives Americans the tools they need to produce more efficiently and profitably. America needs political innovation rooted in sensible economic policy to overcome the challenges we face. Restoring degraded land using small farms will make us more resilient and strengthen our competitive position in global markets for generations. If elected, I will work to turn these proposals into policy.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Chiaradio
Democratic Nominee for Congress, MS-03