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February 15, 2016

Dr. John McArthur, President
Cameron University
2800 West Gore Blvd.
220 Administration Bldg.
Lawton, OK 73505

Dear President McArthur,

I write to you on behalf of the leadership and membership of the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association (OCA) regarding upcoming decisions that Cameron University will make relative to budget constraints. I appreciate the opportunity to provide input as Cameron leadership labors with these difficult decisions.

As you are aware, agriculture is a primary and vital engine to the economy of southwest Oklahoma. Agriculture is the foundation for most rural Oklahoma families, especially in the southwest part of the state. Despite the volatility that all markets are experiencing, OCA believes that agriculture is set for a bright future. As our world population continues to grow, agriculture must and will rise to the challenge to feed, clothe and protect. Fundamental to accomplishing this will be access to high quality education.

Cameron University has been providing, through their Agriculture Department, an extremely valuable and beneficial educational service. Indeed, at the 2015 Cameron University commencement where 53 associate, bachelor and master degree programs were represented, Agriculture was in the top 25% of total student recipients having more students than 39 other departments. We encourage you to continue the excellent academic courses and programs that provide students bedrock learning in agriculture principles and production practices. This will be not only a direct benefit to Cameron but will very positively feedback into the rural communities of southwest Oklahoma.

OCA realizes that your upcoming budget decisions will be very difficult. Throughout these tough times, we encourage you to maintain the effective and positive Agriculture degree programs provided by the Agriculture Department. If there are ways OCA can work with you to do so, we welcome those opportunities. Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide input and OCA appreciates your careful consideration of the importance of Agriculture education.

Sincerely,

Charlie Swanson
President

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