



July 14, 2016

Senator Chuck Grassley  
United States Senator for Iowa  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Grassley,

We're pleased to report that we have offered to buy out our company's lease of the closed plant in Cherokee, Iowa by paying 100 percent of the remaining four-years of rent on the property, nearly \$400,000. We hope the owner will accept our offer, which would end Tyson Foods' ties to the plant and give the owner complete control over finding a new tenant.

We know the plant is important to Cherokee, which is why we've been working with the owner and local economic development authorities to find another business to lease the property. Several food companies expressed interest. Unfortunately, each decided it wouldn't work for them.

Our company is currently bound by contract to lease the Cherokee facility through September 30, 2020 and neither the city nor property owner have offered any ways to relieve us of our lease obligations. So, after discussions with the Iowa Economic Development Authority, we've decided to buy out the lease, relinquish our ties to the property and give the owner and the town of Cherokee full control.

We're making this offer to help resolve concerns about how the vacant plant should be marketed and continue to hope a new tenant can be found so it can once again provide jobs and benefit the local economy.

Make no mistake, Iowa is hugely significant to Tyson Foods. We operate seven plants and employ more than 11,500 Iowa residents. In addition, we buy livestock from almost 2,500 independent family farmers in the state. When you factor such things as annual payroll and livestock purchases, the economic impact of our Iowa operations in 2015 was nearly \$4 billion dollars. Over the last two years alone, we spent more than \$100 million in the state to improve or expand our facilities. In other words, Iowa remains a vital part of our future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wes Morris", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Wes Morris  
President – Prepared Foods