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(202) 224-3744
www.grassley.senate.gov
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DES MOINES, IA 50309-2106
(515) 288-1145
- ☐ 111 7TH AVENUE, SE, BOX 13
SUITE 6800
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52401-2101
(319) 363-6832

United States Senate

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501

July 11, 2016

REPLY TO:

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- ☐ 201 WEST 2ND STREET
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(563) 322-4331
- ☐ 307 FEDERAL BUILDING
8 SOUTH 6TH STREET
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51501-4204
(712) 322-7103

Mr. Donnie Smith
Chief Executive Officer
Tyson Foods, Inc.
2200 W. Don Tyson Parkway
Springdale, AR 72762

Dear Mr. Smith,

I'm writing with regard to the facility leased by Tyson Foods in Cherokee, Iowa.

In 2014, Tyson closed its meat processing plant in Cherokee, Iowa, and eliminated 450 jobs. As one of the largest employers in Cherokee, the Tyson meat processing plant was an important driver of the local economy. The closing of the facility took a toll on the community. According to Iowa Workforce Development, Cherokee County lost 4.1 percent of its population between 2010 and 2015.

It's my understanding that Tyson Foods continues to hold the lease on the property and the facility has remained unoccupied since the 2014 closing. I'm aware of the desire of city and county officials to see the facility occupied and operating, so that it can continue to serve the economic and employment needs of the area. It is my hope that Tyson Foods would work with the owner of the facility and local leaders in Cherokee to ensure that the facility can be occupied and productive again. It seems there would be mutual interest in seeing the facility occupied to restore economic vitality and livelihoods in their community.

I appreciate your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,


Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator

Committee Assignments:

CHAIRMAN,
JUDICIARY

AGRICULTURE
BUDGET
FINANCE

CO-CHAIRMAN,
INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS
CONTROL CAUCUS