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The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP  
Secretary of State for Environment  
Food and Rural Affairs  
Defra  
Seacole Building  
2 Marsham Street London SW1P  
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5 November 2018

Dear Michael,

In my letter of 24 October, enclosing the text of a number of amendments to the Agriculture Bill which we would like the UK government to adopt, I mentioned that I might write again with further amendments to address omissions in the Bill.

You will recall that I have already mentioned these omissions to you in our face-to-face meetings and in the single discussion we had on the content of the bill just before it was introduced.

First, the Scottish Government considers that promises on future funding that were made during the EU referendum campaign should be honoured by the UK government. The existing UK government funding assurances are welcome as far as they go, but they fall far short of meeting the promises made during the campaign and which no doubt will have influenced some voters. We would like to see UK government policy reflect in full those promises, and would ask you to adopt for the Agriculture Bill the enclosed amendment designed to achieve this.

Secondly, you have stated that it is UK government policy not to let producers be undercut, under any future post-Brexit trade deals, by imported products which have not been produced to the same standards required of our own domestic farmers, crofters and food producers. We support this objective and see this Bill as a potential vehicle for its implementation. You will be aware that this matter was raised by MPs across Parliament in the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading debate so I hope consensus can be reached. I am therefore also enclosing an amendment on this, which I would ask you to adopt.

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Finally, on the red meat levy I note that at this stage there is no UK government amendment to resolve this long-running issue. I find that disappointing because, as I made clear in successive ministerial meetings, I would have wished the UK government's commitment to resolve the problem to be reflected by your including a clause at introduction of the Bill or at the very least by tabling a government amendment at the earliest opportunity. Of the backbench amendments that have been tabled, NC6 in the name of Deirdre Brock MP is the closest to what the Scottish Government considers to be required. I trust that you will now instruct your officials to work with devolved administration officials to find an outcome which is mutually agreeable and properly resolves this issue once and for all.

I hope that the above is clear and self-explanatory but if I or Scottish Government officials can assist with any further information, please do not hesitate to involve us.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fergus Ewing". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large loop at the end of the word "Ewing".

**FERGUS EWING**

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