

To whom this may concern,

I hope this letter finds you in good health. I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the live export of sheep and to strongly advocate for the phased-out discontinuation of this practice. As an informed citizen and someone who values animal welfare, I believe it is crucial for us to reassess the ethical and economic implications of live sheep exports and transition toward more humane and sustainable alternatives.

Animal Welfare: The conditions endured by sheep during long-distance sea voyages are inherently stressful and can result in significant suffering. The limited space, high stocking densities, and extreme temperatures on board the vessels can lead to heat stress, respiratory issues, injuries, and even death. These animals are confined in unnatural environments, unable to engage in their natural behaviors, and face various forms of physical and psychological distress. Phasing out live sheep exports would demonstrate our commitment to animal welfare and align with global standards for humane treatment of animals.

Disease Transmission: Live sheep exports have been associated with the transmission of diseases both between animals and potentially to humans. Sheep can carry various pathogens, such as foot-and-mouth disease and Q fever, which pose a risk to animal and public health. Despite the implementation of strict quarantine measures, outbreaks can still occur, potentially devastating local livestock industries and posing significant public health risks. By discontinuing live sheep exports, we can mitigate the potential spread of diseases and protect both animal and human populations.

Environmental Impact: Live sheep exports also have negative environmental consequences. The carbon footprint associated with transporting animals over long distances is significant, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. Additionally, the disposal of waste generated by these vessels poses pollution risks to marine ecosystems. Transitioning away from live exports would reduce our carbon emissions and support sustainable practices that align with global efforts to combat climate change.

Economic Opportunities: While live sheep exports have historically contributed to the agricultural economy, it is important to consider the long-term economic viability and sustainability of this industry. By phasing out live exports, we can redirect resources and investments toward developing and promoting local processing facilities and value-added products. This shift would create new employment opportunities, encourage innovation, and enhance the overall competitiveness of the domestic agricultural sector.

Global Trend: There is a growing global trend toward phasing out live animal exports, driven by ethical concerns and a desire to improve animal welfare standards. Numerous countries, including some major agricultural exporters, have already implemented or are considering bans or restrictions on live animal exports. Aligning our practices with these global standards would enhance our reputation as a responsible and compassionate nation and support the welfare of animals worldwide.

In conclusion, the live export of sheep is an outdated and ethically problematic practice that should be phased out. By prioritizing animal welfare, mitigating disease transmission risks, addressing environmental impacts, and exploring new economic opportunities, we can ensure a more compassionate and sustainable future for both animals and our agricultural industry. I urge you to consider the ethical imperative and join the international community in working toward ending live sheep exports.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature.