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March 26, 2025

Re: Support for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP)

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of the Central Grasslands Roadmap Initiative, I write to express our full support for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP).

Rangelands, which constitute more than half of the Earth's land surface, are crucial to the health, productivity, and environmental sustainability of our planet. These lands, characterized by native grasses, forbs, and shrubs, provide essential services such as grazing for livestock, habitat for wildlife, and the preservation of biodiversity. The health of these ecosystems is directly linked to the livelihoods and cultural traditions of pastoralists worldwide.

The Central Grasslands Roadmap Initiative is committed to advancing the sustainable management and restoration of grassland and rangeland ecosystems. Through collaboration with stakeholders across the Central Grasslands biome of North America, we seek to ensure that these landscapes continue to support both the natural environment and the human communities that depend on them. The IYRP aligns perfectly with our mission to increase awareness, mobilize resources, and support the sustainable management of rangelands and grasslands globally. It will provide an important opportunity to elevate the role of pastoralists and rangeland ecosystems in global discussions, highlight the challenges and opportunities in these areas, and inspire action to enhance their resilience and sustainability.

We believe that the IYRP will contribute to fostering better understanding and collaboration between governments, civil society, and the private sector to address the urgent challenges facing grasslands and rangelands. It is a critical moment to recognize and support the work of pastoralists, who are on the frontlines of land stewardship, and to catalyze investments in both the people and the ecosystems that sustain them.

With these priorities in mind, the Central Grasslands Roadmap Initiative expresses our strong support for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists and looks forward to contributing to this important global initiative.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Hanna
Director, Central Grasslands Roadmap Initiative