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Subject: Solidarity in Protecting the Rights of Farmers, Consumers and Vulnerable Communities

Dear Senator Bernie Sanders,

I recently received your message concerning “**Good Conversations with Older Vermonters,**” and I was deeply encouraged by your continuing efforts to listen to ordinary people and highlight the hardships faced by vulnerable communities. Your longstanding commitment to social justice, economic fairness and the rights of working people is greatly appreciated.

I am a retired Professor of the University of Agriculture, Peshawar, Pakistan, and Founder and President of the **Dairy Science Park (DSP)**. Since its establishment in 2011, DSP has worked to translate the Academia–Industry–Government nexus into practical action for the benefit of livestock and dairy farmers, women, youth, small entrepreneurs and consumers. Our objective is to strengthen local livestock economies, create dignified livelihoods and jobs, improve food safety and quality, and enable consumers to obtain nutritious food at affordable prices.

We have also established the **National Eco-Security System Pakistan (NESS-Pak)**, bringing together stakeholders around food security, public health security, environmental security and renewable energy, biodiversity and livelihood security. Both initiatives are based on the belief that development must serve people and communities rather than allowing vulnerable populations to bear the costs of inefficient or unjust systems.

From Pakistan, we have followed with appreciation your efforts to defend the rights of ordinary people and to draw international attention to the hardships experienced by vulnerable populations. We are particularly concerned when economic and political policies imposed by powerful states contribute to suffering among ordinary people in sovereign countries. In this context, I appreciate your willingness to question aggressive policies and their humanitarian consequences, including those associated with the Trump Administration toward countries such as Venezuela and Iran.

Our experiences have taught us that **food security is ultimately people's security**. Farmers need fair opportunities and markets; consumers need safe and affordable food; young people need productive employment; and nations need the policy space to develop their own resources and institutions.

I would therefore be honoured to establish communication with you and your team and share our experiences under DSP and NESS-Pak. We believe that international dialogue among people and organizations working for farmers, food security, livelihoods and social justice can contribute to a more peaceful, equitable and sustainable world.

With sincere appreciation for your service to ordinary people,

Sincerely,



(Prof. Muhammad Subhan Qureshi)

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Senator Bernie Sanders

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