

EXHIBIT A

01/02/2022

The Honorable Stanley A. Bastian
Chief United States District Judge
P.O. Box 2706
Yakima, WA 98907

Dear Judge Bastian,

I am sending you this letter in regards to the case pending against Cody Easterday. I wanted to add my experiences with him to help you understand his character.

I am a fourth generation farmer and cattle rancher, my family has been here in the same location since the late 1800's. I was born here in 1949 and came back to the farm out of college and have lived here ever since. My wife and I raised our children here and sent them to local North Franklin County schools. We know just about everyone around here.

I met Cody when he was just out of high school, I knew his family before I met him. They were cattle ranchers, member of our local Cattleman's Association, neighbors and community leaders. They were hard working and very active in the area. They not only raised cattle but potatoes and other row crops. Their son Cody was active in the family business when he was pretty young, he was a hard working young man who was well thought of.

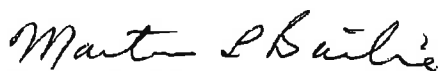
I didn't know Cody as well as I knew his father until later in 2008 when he approached me to buy some property for a feedlot. During that whole purchase I found him to be honest and forthright in our business dealing. He had a great reputation for being a hand shake kind of guy and this was no different, he kept his word. The new feedlot employed local people and bought local hay and grains for feed. It was very well managed, Cody had very high standards for cleanliness and he cared deeply about the impact on his neighboring farmers.

After that we kept in touch as farmers. He was quite a community advocate, staying involved in school activities and local events. He was always known for his generosity, donating to local events that impacted our area. If you went to a local community event that Cody was a sponsor or a donor you could be assured that it was a worthwhile endeavor.

As for him personally I know him to be a dedicated businessman, a great neighbor, a great father and a tireless community leader. I am aware of the charges against him and that he has pled guilty to them. I have observed though that even in the face of these charges he has taken responsibility for his actions and made every effort to resolve the debt issue and to make as much restitution as possible. I personally believe he has learned much from his mistakes, he has lost much but still keeps going trying to resolve and make restitutions to his creditors.

In closing I would like to thank you for taking time to read this. I do sincerely believe that Cody Easterday will someday regain his reputation and be a contributing member of our farm and local community.

Sincerely,



Manton L. Bailie
Baille Land Company
Mesa, WA 99343

C. D. "Butch" Booker, Broker/Auctioneer
809 N Main St · Colfax, WA 99111
Office (509) 397-4434 · Cell (509) 989-2855
E-mail cartha@colfax.com

Honorable Stanley A. Bastain
Chief United States District Court
PO Box 2706
Yakima, WA 98907

RE: Cody Easterday Sentencing

Dear Judge Bastain:

I am writing this letter Regarding Cody Easterday and his upcoming sentencing. Being involved in livestock agriculture my entire life, Cody's situation and the surrounding circumstances has been intriguing to say the least.

I have known Cody since he was a young boy and have watched him become a husband, father and grandfather. I have watched him along with his family, dream of, work for, and develop the large family farm known as Easterday Farms.

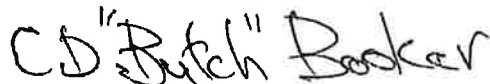
I acknowledge that Cody has plead guilty to wire fraud charges related to Easterday Farms business.

My family's involvement in the auctioneering profession in the Inland Northwest has led me to have personal and professional interactions with Cody as both a buyer and seller. Cody has always been forthcoming and truthful in the dealings and interactions I have had with him. He has displayed stellar character, truthful conduct and care for those around him over the course of our 40-year history. For 50+ years my family has conducted numerous 4-H and FFA market stock auctions in the region. I have observed Cody's generous nature and commitment to community at these events, often helping the kids who would otherwise be overlooked and that needed help the most. His heart was huge and his willingness to do what was needed to support was unrivaled.

Cody acknowledges he made a mistake and will deal with that fact daily. Regardless, I would not hesitate to do business with Cody in the future. I know his dreams and ambitions are still rooted in production agriculture and I believe he can be an asset to his community and through agriculture, provide for his family.

Cody Easterday is not a bad person. He knows the difference between right and wrong and has shown his willingness to correct this out-of-character mistake. I will always think of Cody as a big-hearted person that cares about those around him.

Sincerely,



C.D. "Butch" Booker
CDB/ad

January 3, 2022

The Honorable Stanley Bastian
Chief United States District Judge
P.O. Box 2706
Yakima, WA 98907

Dear Judge Bastian,

This letter is in reference to the character of Cody Easterday, who has pled guilty to wire fraud and is to be sentenced soon. I am a consulting feedlot nutritionist and have worked closely with Cody professionally and known his family for the past twenty years. I live in Missouri but looked forward to my monthly visits to Washington for all those years.

I first started to work for Cody when he had a small 10,000 head feedlot south of the Washington Tri-Cities. Over the years, he had expanded that feedlot to approximately 40,000 head capacity and built another 25,000 head capacity feedlot near Eltopia, WA. He also leased another feedlot near Royal City, WA. He was probably the leading cattle feeder in the entire region. He was very innovative and people in the industry naturally migrated towards him. He was willing to share information and was kind and friendly toward everyone. I think everyone was taken aback when they learned of what had happened relative to the wire fraud charge.

He was able to build his business in part by developing a culture within his work force that I believe to be unsurpassed in any agricultural production industry. I personally have been closely involved with over 30 large feeding organizations and have yet to witness such a culture of commitment and respect for one another and the organization. Everyone in the organization was proud of their jobs and Easterday Ranches. Cody treated his employees with dignity and respect. In addition to excellent pay, benefits and bonuses, he provided opportunities for personal growth and advancement. Employees at all levels were encouraged to attend personal development programs and seminars (one example is "People First") that were paid for by the company. Employees at the feedlots were also provided enhanced training sessions (e.g., horsemanship) at company expense. The company also paid for English classes for Hispanic employees to aid in their own personal growth. I think it is important to reiterate that I have never seen such time, effort, and money expended to create a positive employee culture and I think it speaks volumes about the person Cody Easterday is.

I have witnessed through the years that the entire Easterday family was extremely close-knit, beginning with Cody's parents and including his brothers, sisters and cousins. All are

friends as well as business partners. Cody is a loving husband and father to his four children. Family is always first with him. I know that he and his three sons Cole, Cutter and Clay are best of friends simply by the way they have interacted with each other over the years. They are sound young men that were brought up properly, and I continue to help them in one of their business endeavors they have started since Cody's troubles came to light.

In summary, the mistake Cody made with respect to the wire fraud charge was completely out of character for him. In all other aspects of his life that I have observed, he has handled himself with a high degree of professionalism. He has shown a great deal of kindness and generosity towards others. People migrate towards him because he is a good person. I know he feels extremely guilty about that he has done and will do everything in his power to make restitution and start over. I know that he is ready to put this chapter of his life behind him and start anew. Should the opportunity present itself in the future, I would be more than happy to renew my professional relationship with Cody.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert T. Brandt, Jr.", written in black ink.

Robert T. Brandt, Jr., Ph.D.
Brandt Nutrition Systems, LLC
bbrandt@mwpm.com

Sabra Baum
110 Via Quanteria
Palm Beach Gardens
FL 33418

December 29, 2021

The Honorable Stanley A. Bastian
Chief United States District Judge
P.O. Box 2706
Yakima, WA 98907

Dear Judge Bastian:

Re: Character Reference for Cody Easterday

I am writing this character reference in support of Mr. Cody Easterday. I am appealing to you for leniency in your sentencing of Mr. Easterday.

My name is Sabra M. Baum (née Easterday), and I am a first cousin of Mr. Easterday. I am an attorney admitted to practice at the bar of the State of New York. I have been practicing as an attorney in the US and overseas since 1999. Currently, I am the Head of Legal for the Tax & Accounting Division, of Wolters Kluwers N.V., a global publicly traded company.

I understand that Mr. Easterday has pled guilty in connection with charges relating to Easterday Ranches and will be sentenced in August of this year. Mr. Easterday is deeply distressed and remorseful about the facts leading to those charges, and for the pain and damage this matter has caused his family, his community and all other affected persons.

In writing this letter, I hope to give you a sense of the inherent nature of Mr. Easterday's character that has defined him through his life. From as early as I can remember, Mr. Easterday's character has been defined by kindness, generosity and a willingness to help those around him. As a very young adult, with little financial means, Mr. Easterday went above and beyond to help me get a start in life. In 1996, I was visiting the Easterday farms, where our Easterday family has lived for generations. My grandfather, Ervin Easterday, was getting elderly, and I wanted to stay with my grandfather, opposite to where Cody and his new wife, Debby, lived. At the time, Cody also was only just getting started in life and he similarly had little means. Our extended family – my grandfather, uncles, aunts and Cody and Debby – all lived within a square mile of each other on Bellflower Road, Mesa, WA. Mr. Easterday could see that I was struggling to make ends meet and that I did not have a car to be able to take a job in town. Without hesitation, Cody drove his spare car to my grandfather's home and handed me the keys. Not only that, it was filled with gas, covered by insurance, cleaned and tuned. And with this, I was able to stay with my grandfather, drive to town and take a job.

The kindness and generosity Mr. Easterday showed me during those difficult years has helped define me as a person through my life. As I graduated University, passed the Bar exams and became settled in a

career, I often have thought about the people – like Mr. Easterday – who helped get me started in life, and I am forever grateful.

The above story is just one example of Mr. Easterday's inherently kind and generous nature. But it is more than that. Mr. Easterday's willingness to help me during my time of need has, in turn, helped inspire me to do what I can to help others in their times of need. At his core, Mr. Easterday's character - his kindness, generosity and willingness to help others - has had a domino effect, through me and many others like me, in making our community a better place.

Mr. Easterday is a good man who has made a terrible mistake. I humbly ask that you please consider the nature of his character in sentencing Mr. Easterday.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sabra M. Baum".

Ms. Sabra M. Baum (née Easterday)

The Honorable Stanley A. Bastain
Chief United States District Court
P.O. Box 2706
Yakima, WA 98907

Dear Judge Bastain:

I am writing to you on behalf of my husband Cody Easterday. I would like to give some insight into the life Cody led and one that we have shared for nearly 30 years. I'm asking you to consider the life he led while growing our business and raising our family. While Cody's plea of guilty is the truth I feel there are many circumstances surrounding his guilt and I'm asking you to consider them in his sentencing.

Cody and I met at the Benton-Franklin Co. Fair the summer before my senior year of high school. After the fair, Cody asked me out on a real date a couple weeks later. While he hinted, we would go to the movies instead he drove me out to a Farm (in the middle of nowhere) to show me the farm he had just purchased. In the pitch dark he told me the little lights I could see were irrigation circle lights and there were 23 of them. While I didn't quite understand his excitement or why he thought this was a good idea his enthusiasm was contagious and intriguing. Fast forward a school year to the spring of 91 I found myself on that farm most weekends and early mornings before school helping to gather samples or drive tractor

wherever I was needed. To say we were inseparable would be accurate. During the next 3 years a Sunday drive would often turn into a drive through a farm that was for sale or to go look at equipment at a dealership in a small town somewhere. I didn't grow up on a farm, but my family was in the cattle industry so working long hours and only vacationing to places where we had business to do for cows/farm was familiar. Cody and I married 3 years after the day we met. Neither of us finished college but that was okay because we knew our life path.

We began our family in 95 when our daughter (Kody Dee) was born then having our 1st son (Cole) in 97 2nd son (Clay) in '99 and our caboose son Cutter in '01. While the kids were young Cody would admit he wasn't around much but we both worked really hard to have family dinner time which was sometimes the only time he would see the kids all day. While things were growing immensely for the business it was always his intent to make it worthwhile for the kids to grow up and be a part of the farm. While neighbors and family spent spring break at the beach our family could be spotted in an onion field with a couple kids driving tractors one in Dads pick up and usually one with me running parts or with Grandpa making sure the rows were straight. I was often jealous of the beach pictures on Facebook but would look around and think we are all together and that's what really matters. That sentiment rings true still today. We are all together and that's what really matters. As the kids got older our involvement in our school and community grew too.

The only hobby my husband has other than farming is BBQing. Along with our neighbors you could find us cooking for school events, summer parties, local fairs and funerals. Being in the Cattle and vegetable industry a lot of those meals were donated as our way of saying Thank you for what you do. With Cody's success he always felt giving back to the community was very important. Our kids' vacation for the year was going to 3 fairs in 4 weeks. Cody called it my fair-cation. I literally lived in a camp trailer with 4 kids for 3 weeks straight. Not exactly the beach vacation but the memories that were made will last a lifetime. One of my favorite things about the fair was the sale of the market animals at the livestock show. While I worked as the superintendent of the beef barn Cody would sit at the auction and bid/buy the kids steer that maybe weren't bringing as much as the other kids, he always wanted to bump up the price for those kids. The youngsters would come ask me where the guy was sitting that bought their steer, I would point him out and they would deliver the buyers gift. Pretty sure not many knew he was my husband and I loved that.

More growth for the farm was happening with a large farm purchase from The Charlie Cox corporation. With this farm came Charlie's potato shed in downtown Pasco and a feedlot on the farm south of Kennewick. Charlie was in failing health so with the purchase of the farm came a promise to Helen Cox wife that Cody would keep their 3 employees employed, pay their insurance, and let them stay in the houses on the farm. Cody looked Helen dead in the eye and promised her and shook

her hand that he would do that, and he did. I believe that is what got us the winning bid for the property. Those 3 employees stayed with Easterday Farms until their retirement. The packing shed in Pasco was a massive endeavor that Cody and his father Gale would need help with. Cody's sister was contemplating a career change, so Cody asked her if she was interested in partnering with us to run potatoes for the fresh market with the intent to have a fresh onion line as well. Jody quit her engineering job and went to work with her dad and Brother. Cody also became interested in feeding cattle convinced that the key to farming was diversity. Farming, the startup of the produce shed and now taking on a whole new industry in Cattle feeding Cody was taking on a tremendous amount and succeeding. I was often asked how he does it and my answer was "I don't know, I just know he loves it"

With all the growth came more employees and management was needed to keep things running smoothly. While finding guys with the work ethic of my husband was challenging Cody soon found that taking young guys that maybe didn't have all the knowledge but were eager to learn was the key to building relationships with them while molding them into management that loved their jobs and would go the extra mile for the farm. Cody believed going the extra mile for his guys was important also. Many Thanksgivings were spent taking Turkey dinner down to the guys at the feedlot in the morning so they could have a Thanksgiving meal after the first round of feed was fed to the cattle. The guys always enjoyed it, I'm not

sure Turkey was their first choice in a meal, but they did enjoy the pies. The kids didn't really understand the deed but then to see the appreciation that they had was immeasurable. I know it had a lasting impact on all of us especially Cody and me.

Cody loves our family of employees. A lot of our employees that stayed with us through this mess have come to me in tears wanting to help. Many of them offered Cody and I their life's savings. It was incredible the love they have showed us. Most of these employees have been with us since they were just teenagers or early 20's working for their own American dream. Cody has helped many of them to buy a house, take loans out for a new vehicle so they had transportation. Borrow money to send home to family in Mexico if they had a family emergency. Cody never hesitated, never asked questions just helped where he could. This is the best quality in my husband, and I adore him for it. Cody was born a natural leader and he doesn't take that roll lightly. He has gone above and beyond to help young kids find a path, to encourage them and guide them in a direction that they will have a positive outcome. Even Cody's peers will often call him for advice on one thing or another and he always gave it to them straight. Coming from a big family he always wanted all of them to succeed also and often helped them out financially in any new endeavors they needed help with.

With the growth of the Easterday Ranches Cody went out and found the best advisors to help our employees succeed and

to better understand feeding cattle at the scope we were at. He found nutritionist from the mid-west with the knowledge to feed cattle with the most return, he hired national and local veterinarians to understand cattle habits and care for them. Cody is a perfectionist when it comes to his work, he wants to be the best at what he does and to show others how to accomplish that too. Feeding cattle is an art when sometimes you do everything right with no returns because of the live and future markets the cattle are sold at. Cody began to Hedge cattle on the market as an insurance policy if the market was lower than the inputs he had into them. Cody has traded corn and other commodities on a small scale for years, he would study the market, talk with industry professionals about the forecast of the markets to make informed decisions on his trades. These trades started with a broker over the phone then with technology the trades became easier to perform. With a smartphone you can now download an app to make trades with the touch of a button on your phone. Cody began to make cattle trades this way, no longer going through a broker. The cattle market had a downturn and Cody started using the futures market to help with the loses we were incurring. While other segments of the farm were flourishing the cattle industry was bleak. With the inventories we had to keep in order to supply a steady supply we were not afforded the ability to stop feeding cattle, you must endure the market as it comes. I found Cody on his phone at all times of the day trading. For a time, the futures market was even open in the middle of the night. I

would wake up to Cody's phone making a slot machine noise for a trade he had made which I assumed to be a win, also the app would make a crashing glass sound which I assumed was a bad trade. I obviously complained he would just blow it off as him doing what he needed to make good decisions on his trades. This went on for some time while my husband became more and more irritable. Cody didn't want to go anywhere, even family events. I became concerned our marriage was failing he didn't want to be around me or the kids. I would drag him to things, and he would complain that no- one cared if he was there. It was a confusing time, asking questions ended in a fight or a calm explanation of how he was managing it, and everything was fine. I complained to friends and confidants and was usually told Cody knows what he is doing, he's fine.

Knowing now that he was dealing with an addiction is both heartbreaking and a feeling of relief. I'm sad I didn't push for more answers and was ok with being complacent with what was happening. I was relieved knowing that there was an answer that with help I would get my husband back and the kids would get their father back. Although the last two years have been the hardest thing we have endured as a couple there has also been a silver lining even from the night he came home and told me how he had been funding his trades. Anger does not explain what I felt that night but that had to be put aside to comfort my inconsolable husband that had just confessed his most terrible secret. Those days and nights were heart wrenching. I asked him to tell our boys by himself. I wanted

them to see their dad vulnerable and heartbroken without me as his crutch and he did. My boys seen their dad as human for the first time in a long time. Just a few short weeks after he had confessed to me, he was working the nerve up to tell his dad. His dad was his very best friend, business partner, and his role model. Unfortunately, on our way home from a meeting with Tyson, we got the word while in the airport that his dad had past in a car accident, that was a gut punch that will remain. Cody never got the chance to tell his dad, this will haunt him forever. While his dad was in poor health, his dad would have given him much needed guidance to navigate the last few years. He misses him dearly and fights back emotion when the conversation is about him. Cody went to all his family members individually and told them what he had been doing. Each had their own way of dealing with such a blow but told him they loved him, and they would see him through this. Family is everything to Cody. He also went to Mark Sagale face to face and told him what he had done. On the drive home he was very remorseful at what he had done to a longtime family friend. It was very hard to watch the devastation of his actions.

I told Cody the night he told me that “you made this mess now fix it” I truly think he has done everything to do that. Being in the office while the debtors took over our business was heartbreaking, but he did it, every day. I spend 2 months by his side strategizing how to get the most out of the sale of land and the equipment we have worked our entire lives for. Somedays were gut wrenching and challenging but Cody became stronger

and stronger. He had gained some confidence back and has worked very hard to help the creditors and friends that he worked with daily through it. Bankruptcy is ugly! The many lessons we have learned are valuable as we move forward to start over. We are starting over, and it has been a breath of fresh air to see my husband out in the field with his boys mentoring them as his father did with him. A lot has changed over the last couple of years but knowing that all my children are in agriculture with the boys farming together and my daughter farming in Idaho with her husband. That is what Cody, and I started this crazy journey for many years ago and with our help they will continue to do what we do best...Farm!

Cody began seeing a therapist after admitting to the fraud. I will say he was reluctant at first, but Ms. Mason has helped Cody with his depression and given him tools to work through the many emotions he has created for himself. I too have visited with Ms. Mason, and she has helped me to understand addiction and helped me understand his loss of control. It is work in progress and we both will continue to seek help.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Debby Easterday

The Honorable Stanley A. Bastian
Chief United States District Judge
P.O. Box 98907
Yakima, WA 98907

Dear Judge Bastian:

My name is Jared Easterday, and I am writing this letter today to attest to the character of my cousin, Cody Easterday. My wife Donna and I own and operate Easterday Land & Livestock, LLC. We primarily farm vegetable crops, but we have fed cattle and been involved in the Dairy business on our journey through life. I started farming at age 16 in 2006, and in 2009 formed Easterday Land & Livestock, LLC which my wife joined me, operating in 2014. I am aware that Cody has pled guilty to wire fraud, and that what he did was both morally wrong and illegal. However, I wish to speak today not about the charges, but instead about Cody's character, his impact on me personally, in business dealings, and his impact on the community and people around him.

I have known Cody my entire life. We both grew up on Bellflower Road in block 20 of the Columbia basin project to the west of Basin City. Cody is about 18 years older than I, and my first memories of him have always been him as an adult. I was the ring bearer at his and Debby's wedding. We have easter egg hunting videos of him holding me by the hand and helping me find easter eggs as a small child. My two oldest daughters were the flower girls at his daughter's wedding. Cody has always been an integral part of the Easterday Family. Cody, by nature is a positive person, and he always radiated positivity to the family. He knows the importance of family gatherings, knows the importance of having a family support system, and has for the most part, excellent relationships with all members of the family. He spoke on behalf of my grandfather Ervin when he was inducted into the Ag Hall of Fame after his death. His kids are a testament to his and Debby's parenting. They are good kids, and in my book, you can't fake good kids, they tell the story. As a young kid I became mechanically inclined and had a passion for agriculture. When I was 14, Cody invited my father and me to a tour of the John Deere tractor and engine works. (Cody and Gale had bought quite a few tractors and John Deere gave them tickets to bring people for a tour). I was not his immediate family, but he knew that my father and I would get something out of that trip, and I still remember it very vividly. In my teen years I was racing motocross and had no equipment to build a motorcycle track to practice. Cody let me use his equipment on weekends to build one. I offered to pay for the use of it and he refused, simply telling me that my father was good to him as a child, and he was happy to help.

This is the Cody I know. He was always the positive voice on what could be achieved and was a great inspiration to a young man growing up. He and his father had a great personal relationship as well as business relationship. They were the best of friends. His mother and him are dynamic together, and many of Cody's positivity is due to his mother. I remember at family get togethers he and his siblings and their spouses always laughing and talking. (The room would

steadily get louder as they all got to having conversation). Cody may have been busy growing his business, but he always made time for family. When I was 16, I started farming on some ground I rented from a neighbor. I grew seed corn for Pioneer International. The fields were corners of pivots with permanent PVC sprinklers. This meant the ground could not be plowed or deep ripped. It had previously been in asparagus and asparagus is a very hard weed to kill when you are not raising it as a crop. I had lots of volunteer asparagus in my corn and no real herbicide options to kill it. Cody stopped one day and said "I think I know what you should do about your asparagus. I think you should mow it just above the corn, and the corn will outgrow it and shade it out." I was able to borrow a mower from him and sure enough it worked. Remember, this is a man who was farming 10,000+ acres at the time but took notice of his young cousin farming 10 acres and the challenges that I was going through. I'm sure the rest of the family has examples because Cody is the type of person that cares about his family and those around him. When my mother died of alcoholism in 2016, Cody told my father who was doing some environmental consulting for him, "Bill take as much time as you need." He and some neighbors cooked for my mother's funeral free of charge and were happy to do it.

I have spoken quite a bit about how Cody has influenced me as a family member, and his interactions within the family. Now I'd like to touch on his presence in the community. Cody has been an active part of the North Franklin community for as long as I can remember. Cody and Debby have been active in the Benton Franklin Fair, the Basin City 4th of July parade, 4H, and the North Franklin School District. When a school levy failed back in 2004, he and other community members got together and made sure the kids in the district had funds to play sports. You not only saw the Easterday name on the maroon trucks running up and down the roads, but you saw the presence in multiple aspects of the community. He would cook and volunteer for school events, funerals, weddings, and countless other community events. Cody has always known the importance of a strong community and took steps to help create that.

I have also done business over the years with Cody. In 2009 I formed Easterday Land & Livestock, LLC and rented a feedlot and farm in Mesa. My first customer was Easterday Ranches. Cody and I had talked quite a bit in 2009 about how a young guy can get started in agriculture and when I saw an opportunity, I chatted with him about it. I was going to lease the yard, but I needed cattle to fill it. We made the deal on a Saturday afternoon at the yard in a pickup and shook on it. That was the first handshake deal I did with Cody but not the last. We sold him corn silage, grain, and fed cattle all on a handshake. We did the written contracts on some of these deals afterwards. I believe the words on the paper only carry the weight the man behind them has in his character, and the words are more of a reminder, so we don't forget specifics, rather than the terms of the deal. That is how I do business. Cody is someone I never hesitated to do business with because when you looked him in the eye and shook hands or he gave you his word he always honored it. When he said something would happen, it happened. To a young entrepreneur that is critical. Being straightforward and honest is critical, and this is how I have always tried to treat people. This is how Cody treated me in our business dealings, and even today with everything that has transpired, I would not hesitate to do a deal on a handshake with him. Not because we are family. Not because we have had business history. But because when you look him in the eye, he says what he means and intends to do what he has said. He has

always held his word to me in both personal and business aspects. The conduct of wire fraud is not the character of the man who has stood across from me on multiple occasions and put a business transaction together. As our business progressed and changed directions over the years, Cody has always been a sounding board for a businessman. As president of the Washington Cattle Feeders Association from 2018-2020, Cody was someone I would always reach out to for perspective as he is a longtime member of the association and was president 10 years prior. In fact, he was a big part of the reason I became a member, and I remember in multiple meetings him nominating young people in the cattle business to become members. When we got into the potato growing business in 2018, I had extensive talks with him about the market dynamics, as well as the production challenges and techniques. He could have viewed me as a new competitor entering the business, but instead he saw the positivity of a new grower. Cody took a small farm of around 1500 acres and grew it into a 22,000 acre diversified operation in about 25 years. He has created opportunities for his employees and people that do business with him. If you look at the company he and his father built over the years, you will find many employees that have been there for 15+ years. That is a testament to both his business prowess and his nature. He inspires the people he leads, and always has known you must take care of those around you, and if you want to be successful make those around you successful. He is one of the hardest working people I have ever known and has poured everything into the business he and his father ran. He created opportunity for young operators like me, Jesse Fletcher, Will Derting, Camas Uebelacker, and the Tuttle family, to all get involved in backgrounding cattle and build sustainable business models. He is known around the community as a successful straight shooter. He also has a passion for agriculture, and more specifically agriculture being successful by the people involved and getting involved in it. I know in my younger years the conversations I had with him brought excitement and a glimmer in his eyes at a young man getting into the business. I believe you could talk to many other younger operators and get the same impression.

I have spoken to Cody over the course of the last year about the current situation. This man knows he screwed up. This man knows what he did was wrong. This man will work tirelessly to do what it takes to make the situation right. Not only for his family, but for the community, and for the victim of the crime. There has been lots of chatter and this has been a fairly high-profile ordeal, but at the end of the day Cody is a simple man, and that simple man has good character. I have no doubt that when this is behind him, Cody will continue to pour his heart and soul into both his business of agriculture and the community. This is not a man who took off to the Caymans or Switzerland with suitcases of money. This is a man who stood up and is selling the pieces of his company he spent 30 years building to make it right. I have never met someone with as much determination as Cody Easterday, and I feel that when all is said and done, it will be apparent that the good he has done this community in the past, and the future, will be his legacy, not his mistakes.

Very truly yours,

Jared Christian S. Easterday

Easterday Land & Livestock, LLC

Jody Easterday
7915 West Dradie Street
Pasco, WA 99301
Phone: 509-521-5064

The Honorable Stanley A. Bastian
Chief United States District Judge

PO Box 2706
Yakima, WA 98907

Dear Judge Bastian:

Cody Easterday is my youngest brother and the youngest sibling in our family. I am the oldest of 5 kids. There is 7 years that separate Cody and me. Five kids, our mom and dad, and usually one or two farm exchange students from the Netherlands shared a small 4 bedroom, 2 bath home on a farm in Basin City, Washington. It was tight to say the least, but we didn't know any different. We were a busy bunch of kids as we all worked on the farm growing up between school, sports, and our animal projects for the county fairs.

When I went off to college Cody was 10, even though I came home often from school, and we had a typical little brother/older sister relationship. My most vivid memories of Cody during this time were his undying passion for farming. As a youngster he had elaborate model farms with toy tractors and implements in our backyard, and it was no surprise that in his early teens he was actually farming on a small scale with Dad and Mom. By the time he was 16, he had started a custom grain harvest business, About the time he was 17-18, he purchased a new combine which I co-signed the loan for him.

Seven years later (1995), I quit my job as an engineer and started Easterday Farms Produce Co. Cody's unceasing positive attitude and encouragement to overcome what seemed insurmountable roadblocks at the time is what propelled me to keep going. In my capacity over the years as the president, operations manager, sales manager, production manager (all of this in the beginning) – there was no one more supportive than Cody, even when I made mistakes or poor choices. He has always had the amazing ability to inspire those around him.

Over 25 years, I have worked closely with Cody. We have more than a brother/sister relationship because of the produce company. I was in complete disbelief when I heard of Cody's unlawful conduct. I wasn't the only one, longtime customers of the produce company that had met Cody on the odd farm tour or produce show were equally surprised and dumbfounded. These types of actions were so uncharacteristic of the man I knew so well. They were inconsistent with his values, actions, and lifestyle.

However, every move and action Cody has taken since he admitted his mistake is consistent with the man I know. These are my observations: He has worked relentlessly for the past 18+ months to make amends to his family and maximize returns to the victims. He has owned his actions, made hard and unselfish choices, and is committed in both short and long term to making things right. He is truly loved and appreciated by his family, past employees, and community members as seen by the widespread acceptance and support.

I have no doubt that Cody will go on to be a very productive man in our family and community. These are the two most important things to Cody, always have been and always will be.

Sincerely,



Jody Easterday

The Honorable Stanley A. Bastian
Chief United States District Judge
P.O. Box 2706
Yakima, WA 98907

Dear Judge Bastian:

Cody Easterday is my younger brother. He has always been an extraordinary human being. He is kind and funny with a lot of energy. He thrives on the success of others and often will go to great lengths to encourage them. I have owned restaurants for many years. Cody has given me tremendous support over the years. One of the most memorable was a Christmas brunch that he arranged for all of his employees. The brunch was at LU LU. He realized it was hard to arrange for all his employees to make the brunch, so he arranged two different times they could attend. He wanted a strong turn out so he paid the employees while they were at the party and had it during the work week, so they would not have to take family time to attend. Of course, it was a huge success.

I have known Cody his entire life. The only thing he ever wanted to do was farm. When he was a small child, maybe 3 years old, he had a little mini tractor and equipment with mini fields in mom's garden. He played endlessly outside. Cody has always been a farmer. I believe he has learned from his mistakes and will spend the rest of his life working to fix his wrongs.

Thank you,

Cindy Goulet

The Honorable Stanley A. Bastian
Chief United States District Judge
P.O. Box 2706
Yakima, WA 98907

Dear Judge Bastian:

My name is Paige Goulet and I am Cody's niece. I have maintained a close relationship with Cody for nearly 28 years, my whole life, and I am aware that Cody has pled guilty to Wire Fraud.

Cody has always been a huge supporter of mine, from the years I showed 4-H pigs at the county fair, to the days I was waiting tables at my mom's restaurant, to moving forward in my career as a restaurant operator. I was shocked to hear of Cody's current situation as it is extremely out of character for the loyal, hard working, supportive man that he is.

As a kid, there were countless years at the Benton Franklin Fair & Rodeo that Cody bid on my 4-H animal during the auction. His passion for both the agricultural community and supporting local kids showed immensely at the fair. I have vivid memories of Cody not only purchasing my 4-H animal, but several others each year as well.

Cody is a strong, hard working, yet caring businessman. As an owner/operator of Easterday Farms he loved and appreciated each and every one of his employees. I had the opportunity to witness this first hand when Cody came to me during the 2019 holiday season and wanted to host an employee appreciation breakfast at my mother and I's restaurant, LU LU Craft Bar + Kitchen, to support our business and celebrate his crew of over 300 people. Together, we made it happen. Not only did he purchase breakfast for all 300+ people, but he brought in ample prizes to raffle off. It was a humbling experience as you could see the joy in everyone's eyes, but most of all in Cody's. He was proud and extremely appreciative of each and every individual in that building.

I often receive text messages from Cody with new menu ideas, great restaurant locations, or links to franchisees that he's discovered and enjoyed. He believes in me and I believe in him. I truly feel that Cody has learned from his mistake and will work day in and day out to make things right for all involved. Once this is behind him, I know that Cody will continue to be the best husband, father, and grandfather for his family. He will continue to support the community that he loves. He will share his knowledge and passion for agriculture with his kids as they continue to grow and succeed.

All the best,

Paige Goulet

Tammy Heberlein
349 Sage Rd
Burbank WA 99323

December 29, 2021

The Honorable Stanley A Bastian
Chief United States District Judge
PO Box 2706
Yakima WA 98907

Dear Judge Bastian:

My name is Tammy Heberlein, I have been the Office Manager for Easterday Farms Produce Co. for 22 years. I have known Cody Easterday during this time as an employee. He is a very humble and down to earth man. He is hardworking and an inspiration for so many in the office. If anyone wanted to talk to him, he was always available and listened. His enthusiasm and involvement have led to many great accomplishments in the farming and produce world. His hard work and dedication have taken us from a one location facility to four. Having facilities located on both the West coast and the East coast.

I want to bring to light the kind of person that he is despite his current legal situation. He opened his farmland in 2014 to host an OCR Renegade Rage obstacle course race. It was promoted to be the most vigorous and longest hardcore obstacle course in Eastern Washington. With scenic views of the Columbia River and heart stopping awe inspiring terrain. It was well attended by the fitness community.

I am sure he will learn from this experience and will not think of repeating it. Cody will strive to make amends and I am sure we will get to see his good works bring fruitful results to our society again.

Thank you for taking the time to learn a little more about Cody. I am available to confirm the facts in this letter by phone or email.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Tammy Heberlein

Vard and Verdene Jenks
750 Albany Road
Mesa, WA 99343

August 31, 2022

THE HONORABLE STANLEY A. BASTIAN
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
P.O. BOX 2706
YAKIMA, WA 98907

Dear Judge Bastian:

We are grateful for the opportunity to write a letter regarding our relationship with Cody Easterday. It is our understanding that Cody has pled guilty to Wire Fraud and is facing sentencing for this charge.

We have known Cody Easterday all his life. His family has farmed near our farm for over 45 years.

As Cody's football coach I witnessed this 135 pound young man earn a spot on the varsity line of the football team. His grit and determination to do his best was evident as he did his best to contribute to the success of the Connell High School football team.

I was also Cody's wrestling coach at the high school. He was a dedicated wrestler and put his heart and soul into becoming a good wrestler. As a result of coaching him, we became good friends and remain that way to this day.

Cody Easterday was in our home many times during his high school years. He dated our daughter.

After graduating from high school his dream was to own and operate the largest farming entity in the Columbia Basin. Even though he is the youngest sibling of his family, he soon became the manager of Easterday Farms. Later Easterday Ranches became part of the family operation. His dream was fulfilled. He has always carried a heavy load as he represented the family business.

Cody approached us about renting our farm in 1999. Easterday Farms rented our farm until the end of 2020. The rent was always paid on time. Cody's sons, Tripe E Farms, have been renting the farm the last two years. They are very responsible young men who have been taught well the ins and outs of the farming business.

No one has been more present in our community than the Easterday family. Easterday Farms and Easterday Ranches employ many in our community. Several years back Cody prepared a tri-tip meal for members of our church. He is not a member but is always willing to give of his time and resources. A year or two ago, he and his wife hosted a fund-raising dinner at their beautiful home for Raul Garcia, a candidate for Governor of Washington State, where many of our Tri-City community enjoyed the evening and felt his desire, as well as our desire, to insure our state government move in a more beneficial direction.

On the day the news came out about the wire fraud charges Cody called and asked if he could come visit us. Through tears of regret and sorrow he expressed his disappointment in himself and the anguish he felt for disappointing all of us, as well as his mother and wife and children. Over the years there has been more and more pressure placed on him to maintain the integrity and strength of their family operations.

Please consider the contributions made by Cody to our family and to the community as he tries to repay the debt he created. Knowing Cody's personality, he will do all that is necessary to continue to rebuild his character. His family needs him and relies on him heavily. We appreciate all he has done to make our personal life and farming life better.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signatures of Vard Jenks and Verdene Jenks in cursive script.

Vard Jenks
Verdene Jenks

The Honorable Stanley A. Bastian
Chief United States District Judge
P.O. Box 2706
Yakima, Wa. 98907

Dear Judge Bastian:

My name is David Manterola and I have known Cody Easterday since we were kids. I am sending this letter in regards to the person I know Cody to be, not only as a friend, but as someone that I have done business with for more than 20 years.

I own and lease farmland between Basin City and Pasco. Over the past several years I have leased ground to Cody and sold hay crops to him. Cody has consistently been fair, meaning he was always concerned that the deal was beneficial to both parties. I would proudly continue to do business with Cody and Easterday Farms.

Cody and Debbie Easterday have raised four outstanding children who are involved in community projects. This is a direct result of the modeling that they saw from their parents while growing up. Cody and Debbie have always been very supportive of our local fairs, not only monetarily, but through their time volunteering at them. North Franklin School district has greatly benefited from the Easterday family supporting them throughout the years. If anyone in this community is in need, the Easterday family is one of the first to offer help if possible. I personally was a beneficiary of the Easterday's generosity. My family and I were heading to Disney Land and had just landed in Seattle when my brother-in-law called me to inform me that my father-in-law had unexpectedly passed away. My first call was to Cully Easterday, one of my best friends, to see if Cody would be willing to send their plane to come get us so that we could be with the rest of our family as soon as possible. Within an hour the plane was on its way to pick us up. I offered to pay for the help but was denied. This is just the kind of thing the Easterday family does when people are in need.

The current legal situation that Cody is in and the charges against him are completely uncharacteristic of Cody Easterday. A desperate situation lead to desperation that made him change his usual manner of business. I believe that if Cody can continue to have the opportunity to find ways to make right the current situation, he will continue to do so. In the past several months Cody has been working tirelessly on trying to find ways to fix the situation, but it requires more time. Cody and I have had conversations about the trouble he is in. He is remorseful and wants to find any way possible to make things right. Money has never driven Cody Easterday. Being a good family man, farmer and community member is what Cody values and he wants to continue to be that man.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

David Manterola
Manterola Hay, Inc.

TWO O'S INC | LJ OLSEN, INC
OTHELLO, WA

The Honorable Stanley A. Bastian
Chief United States District Judge
P.O. Box 2706
Yakima, WA 98907

Dear Judge Bastian:

I'm writing to share with you my thoughts and opinions of Cody Easterday. Cody and I are related, we are actually double cousins. So, of course I've known him my entire life. We share a love of family, farm and community. My husband and I farm in Othello with my in-laws and both of our adult children. Cody and I have spent many hours discussing the challenges of a multi generation family business, and his guidance has been invaluable. The family farm situation is very unique, few have the insight and experience to give advice or counsel.

He began his farming life as a very young child, when he turned 18 that farm was in dire straits. Cody made the decision to forego college and stayed to help his parents recover. From this auspicious start he grew a small farm into large agricultural enterprise, employing nearly 400 people and giving many an opportunity for success they would not have had otherwise. He is a very smart, kind man with vision that few have.

His willingness to share his time and support to so many is endless. Regardless of the organization, school or sport, Cody will be there with his time, his help, even funding, whatever is needed. Cody's passion for his family and community is well known in our little world, all who interact with him will say the same thing; if he says he can help, he will be there with a big smile, endless energy and vision.

He and I both grew up active in 4-H, and have committed our time to our local county fair. Cody has floored the beef sale, and by doing so ensures every child will have an opportunity to market their animal successfully. He donates the transportation of the floored animals, and takes care of their nutrition and growing needs until they are ready for the processing plant. This protects the animal and essentially the child from any negative effects of the fair and showing process.

I realize that he has made some serious mistakes and understand the need for reparation. He has shared with me his feelings on it, and I can only say his guilt is enormous. He feels he has let everyone down, his family, business and community. Cody now has huge desire to fix what he has broken, and can really only do it from his farm and office.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Regards,

Shelley R Olsen

Two O's Inc | LJ Olsen, Inc
1393 W Cunningham Rd
Othello, WA 99344
509-989-0201

The Honorable Stanley A. Bastian
Chief United States District Judge
PO BOX 2706
Yakima WA. 96907

Dear Judge Bastian,

My Name is Jake Para. I am a 70 year old third generation rancher/cattle feeder from Othello, WA. My Grandfather homesteaded here in 1909. My first business deal with Cody Easterday was when he was 18 years old. As Cody began his cattle feeding venture, he relied on me for advise and help in marketing his cattle. I was paid a consulting fee on all cattle marketed. Later, as he expanded both his farming and cattle operations, I introduced him to people with money who wanted to invest in a young "go getter". About 12 years ago I said to Cody, "I may have helped open some doors, but your production skills have kept them open. You no longer need me." He continued to pay me a consulting fee until the end. With myself and others, he felt that this was the honorable thing to do. In business and life in general, he has always done not only what was good for himself and family, but was also "the right thing to do".

Cody Easterday tends to feel responsible for everyone in his circle of friends and business associates; maybe to a fault. He has taken care of many people financially when he didn't need to. He has always been about family first and foremost. Whatever has happened, I am proud to call Cody a good friend and would do business with him without reservation. he has been and will continue to be the executor of my will.

Sincerely,



Jake para

The Honorable Stanley A. Bastain
Chief United States District Judge
PO Box 2706
Yakima, WA 98907

Dear Judge Bastain:

January 5, 2022

My name is Wade Nelson and I am Cody Easterday's cousin. I am a cattle rancher in rural Oregon and owner of Nelson Cattle Carriers, a trucking company I started in July of 2008. I grew up in the cattle ranching life and went on to work in feedlots during my college years. During that time I also drove a truck leading up to an opportunity to start a trucking company where I owned cattle trailers and leased them to owner operators as well as hiring outside trucks. Not long after starting the company, I gained new customers such as Easterday Farms.

Cody and I grew up close. Our families lived close to each other and we were all in agriculture. He loves to explain to people how we are "double cousins" and got a good laugh at knowing people were confused. Cody loves having a big family and he enjoys his big family being around. He is not one to shy away from a family get together. He hosted the 4th of July barbeque for many years, however we moved away and haven't been able to attend the event. I got married in 1996 and moved from the Columbia Basin so our relationship changed from cousins growing up together to married with children adulthood. At the last family get together he was all smiles telling us, several times, about how he was going to be a grandpa. He declared himself a "Hot Grandpa". You could really tell he was excited for the grandbaby.

I rode pens for Cody in his feedlot. Riding pens involves riding a horse in a pen of cattle to look for anything sick or injured and being able to remove it and doctor it accordingly. Cody asked me to teach him because he wanted to learn for himself. He rode with me for a month or so to see what it took to make the job better or with the least amount of obstacles. I can appreciate someone who wants to learn the dirty jobs as well as the clean ones. Cody doesn't look down on anyone who does have a dirty job, he treats the janitor with the same dignity and respect he does with the CEO. He is no stranger to work either. He has a very strong work ethic and known for fair work practices.

It would be fair to say for that for 12 years the bulk of our business was for Cody hauling his cattle. It was a great business relationship. He needed cattle hauled and I set up the trucks to haul them. Cody was very fair to deal with. He didn't back out on any agreement and kept his word. Something that I could count on. His businesses grew bigger and bigger each year, however you would never really know with him because he was not a braggart. I believe I did the trucking for him because of two reasons. One: he gave family the first fair shot at a job. However you had to do the job well to keep it so it was not a sure thing. It's not that I had all of his business but I earned the good reputation of getting cattle trucked and he needed that. Two: He trusted my judgement. I didn't have to run every little thing by him. I didn't have a micromanager looking over my shoulder.

Cody is a very fair person to deal with and a great person to have your back. We have had ranches or sale yards try to over load us with cattle and he has always backed me up for making the call of refusing a heavy weight. The truck driver does not want the overweight ticket so he backed the driver wanting to be legal. When ranches wanted to load late in the day, rather than first thing in the morning, forcing the driver to get less sleep he would back up the driver. This happened in Montana and the rancher and sales representative were very surprised to hear Cody on the other end of the phone tell them he was backing us

up. I appreciated that and word got around we couldn't be pushed around because he had our back.

There are far too many good qualities that Cody has a farmer, feedlot owner, and business man to dismiss and never work with again. I would absolutely do business with him again and to be honest I would not do too much different because it was just a good business relationship. It was 6 months from the time I heard about what happened to the time he called. His voice cracked. He was ashamed. He was very humble. You could tell he was beating himself up for letting so many down and bruising the Easterday name. I believe he has learned a very hard lesson and it's a lesson he would not anyone close to him to follow. Cody's father, Gale (my mom's brother) died and it's important for him to be there for his mother. His wife Debby needs Cody to be there as new grandparents to their first grandchild. His three boys need him to be there for his guidance as farm operators. He is a darn good farmer and the world needs farmers like him. I think he regrets his decision that put him in a place that takes him out of his friends and family's life. He is a good man who made a bad mistake.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wade Nelson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Wade Nelson

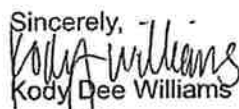
The Honorable Stanley A Bastain
Chief United States District Judge
PO Box 2706
Yakima, WA 98907

Dear Judge Bastain,

I am writing on behalf of the charges against my father, Cody Easterday. Anyone who knows my dad, knows his inert ability to make you feel important. Whether you were talking business or talking about whatever sports game you had the night before he had a way of making you feel on top of the world. I was lucky enough to have him as my dad growing up. He has pushed me way out of my comfort zones and has been ample to the success I am seeing today. When I was at my wits end and thought that college might not be the path for me he pushed me to finish. My husband and I moved to Idaho two years ago and started a farm. Even though he might not know it, his influence is huge on how we want our farm to look, how we go about raising our crops and even running our business. Watching him build a business and a culture around him from very little to what we knew it also gave me the confidence to know that we could do it too.

One thing I have always admired about my dad is his complete devotion to taking care of his family. Obviously he did his best to take care of his wife and kids but he always made sure that his brother and sisters had the support they needed to pursue their endeavors. I mentioned that my husband and I had moved to Idaho to start our own farm. This last spring we had to put out 3500 pieces of pipe to water our potatoes. As you probably know the heat this last year came on fast and it didn't go away. We have also been victims of the labor shortage and were in dire need of help putting pipe out and were at the risk of losing our potato crop. This was only our second year of farming and as if farming wasn't tough enough we aren't in a position to make very many mistakes. My dad, while dealing with his own crazy world, went out of his way to make sure that we got the help we needed. He coordinated getting some help down here and then came down to make sure that everything was good and that we were ok. He is notorious for doing things like this for the people around him.

While I am aware of the actions that he has done in regards to his business with Tyson, I don't believe that what he was doing was malicious. I do believe that he regrets what he has done and has done an extraordinary job taking accountability for his actions as difficult as it might be. Regardless of his current circumstances he will continue to work hard to take care of his family and he will come back from this. While unfortunate this is just part of his story. He has a huge support system behind him who all believe in his ability to come back from this.

Sincerely,

Kody Dee Williams
PO BOX 352
Fruitland, ID 83619

The Honorable Stanley A. Bastien

Chief United States District Judge

P.O Box 2706

Yakima, WA 98907

Dear Judge Bastien:

I am writing on behalf of my brother-in-law/ partner and friend Cody Easterday. I wish to take this opportunity to express my views on his good character over the entire twenty-three years that I have known him and especially in the last three years that his transgression has come to light.

As someone who has been dramatically affected, both professionally and personally by the impacts of the situation I can't but help feel just how out of character it is.

It seems unbelievable the situation Cody now finds himself in and inconsistent with the person whom I have known for so long. One thing that has been consistent has been his tireless efforts to try and right the wrong. His efforts to try and make the debtors right has been in my mind enviable.

Altruism is the word that I always associated with Cody, his time and resources were always spread around whether to family, neighbors, institutions like the county fair or State University events where we together with others spit roasted and catered.

Cody has been a true family man, loyal and involved in the lives of our extended family. My son has spent many years beside his grandfather and Uncle Cody and has only great benefits to show from it.

I remember a Christmas gift I received from him; it was a steelhead fishing trip to the Hells Canyon for six persons. This was so like Cody, a trip including all my other brother -in laws as well as himself and his father. It was awesome and a way to include an outsider brother -in law like me from New Zealand into my new family.

My sincere wish is that you take my views and observations into consideration and believe that when I became aware of his case before you that I was completely dumbfounded, unable to reconcile this with the Cody I know.

Respectfully, Andrew Wills.

EXHIBIT B

Non-Scannable Exhibit