

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 26, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steve Scalise
Majority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Emmer
Majority Whip
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Elise Stefanik
Chair of the Republican Conference
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader Scalise, Majority Whip Emmer, and Conference Chair Stefanik:

As you are all aware, agriculture is among the most vital industries to the United States of America, and the farm bill—omnibus legislation that establishes policies affecting all sectors of the agriculture industry for a five-year period—expires this year.

Since the enactment of the 2018 Farm Bill, which was extended last December to cover 2024, the agriculture sector has faced numerous headwinds. A combination of catastrophic factors including illegal retaliatory tariffs on agricultural products, supply chain disruptions from the COVID-19 pandemic, extreme weather events, crippling inflation, and high interest rates continue to fuel an impending financial crisis in farm country.

Farmers and ranchers do not have the luxury of waiting until next Congress for the enactment of an effective farm bill. Inflation has driven production costs to the highest on record, meanwhile commodity prices across the board have fallen precipitously, creating a severe margin squeeze on farm and ranch families. A \$34 billion projected loss in crop cash receipts is expected to result in the sharpest two-year decline in net cash income in our nation's history: 31% (\$69.2 billion). Farm debt, \$540 billion, is the highest ever, both nominally and when adjusted for inflation. These factors show no signs of abating for all major commodities. Yet, despite the overwhelming increase in production costs, declining commodity cash receipts, and the record-breaking decline in net cash income, without intervention, federal support provided to agriculture in 2024 is projected to reach its lowest level since 1982, a year that presaged the farm financial crisis of the mid-1980s.

The 118th Congress has an opportunity to do right by producers, other agriculture stakeholders, rural communities, and taxpayers by putting more “farm” back in the farm bill and by making responsible reforms and investments across all 12 titles, and the bipartisan H.R. 8467—The Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024, which was advanced by the House Committee on Agriculture on May 24th of this year, does just that. This legislation is the product of input

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

received at seven House Committee on Agriculture hosted listening sessions, and numerous round tables and town halls across the country, is reflective of the over 2,600 priorities submitted to the Committee on Agriculture by 172 members of the Republican Conference, is supported by hundreds of stakeholder organizations, and is worthy of our time, attention, and effort as the 118th Congress comes to a close.

The negative impacts of failing to act will not just stop at the farm gate, but will also hit Main Street businesses, rural communities, and the national economy. Among some commodities and regions, calamitous impacts in farm country, such as those felt during the crisis of the 1980s, are a genuine possibility. Therefore, we respectfully urge that the enactment of H.R. 8467, or similar legislation that makes meaningful investments in farmers, ranchers, and rural communities, is among the top priorities of the Republican Conference and that this be considered a “must-pass” item in the lame duck session of the 118th Congress.

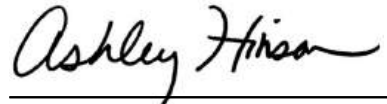
The Biden-Harris Administration and Democratic Congressional Leadership have failed to appreciate the dire situation in farm country and have stood in the way of progress on a highly effective farm bill, however we remain hopeful that after election year politics have run their course, they will join in a bipartisan fashion to do what’s right for the country. All Americans, particularly our rural constituents, deserve nothing less and we stand ready to assist in this endeavor as the end of the year approaches.

Thank you for your strong support of agriculture and rural America.

Sincerely,



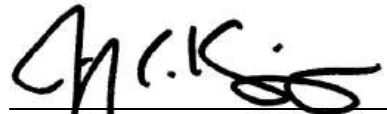
Mark Alford
Member of Congress



Ashley Hinson
Member of Congress



Mary E. Miller
Member of Congress



Jen A. Kiggins
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

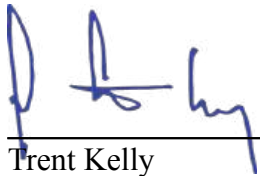
Washington, DC 20515



Brandon Williams
Member of Congress



Barry Moore
Member of Congress



Trent Kelly
Member of Congress



Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress



Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.
Member of Congress




Dusty Johnson
Member of Congress



Charles J. "Chuck"
Fleischmann
Member of Congress



August Pfluger
Member of Congress



Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress



Kat Cammack
Member of Congress



Sam Graves
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



Dan Meuser
Member of Congress



Cliff Bentz
Member of Congress



Lori Chavez-DeRemer
Member of Congress



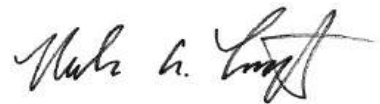
C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress



David Rouzer
Member of Congress



John Rose
Member of Congress



Nicholas A. Langworthy
Member of Congress



Mike Bost
Member of Congress



Greg Pence
Member of Congress



John R. Carter
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

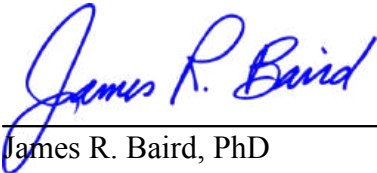
Washington, DC 20515




David G. Valadao
Member of Congress




Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



James R. Baird, PhD
Member of Congress



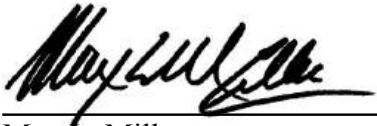
Michael K. Simpson
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman
Member of Congress



Nick LaLota
Member of Congress



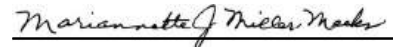
Max L. Miller
Member of Congress



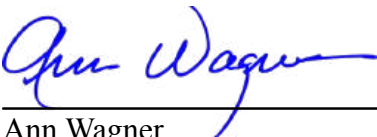
James Comer
Member of Congress



Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress



Mariannette Miller-Meeks,
M.D.
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



Pat Fallon
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515



Austin Scott
Member of Congress



Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
Member of Congress



Tracey Mann
Member of Congress



A. Drew Ferguson IV
Member of Congress



Derrick Van Orden
Member of Congress



Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress



Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress



Juan Ciscomani
Member of Congress



Kelly Armstrong
Member of Congress



Brad Finstad
Member of Congress



Zach Nunn
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States


Washington, DC 20515



Mike Flood
Member of Congress



Randy Feenstra
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



Marcus J. Molinaro
Member of Congress



Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress



Jake Ellzey
Member of Congress



John Joyce, M.D.
Member of Congress



Michael Guest
Member of Congress



Julia Letlow, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



John S. Duarte
Member of Congress



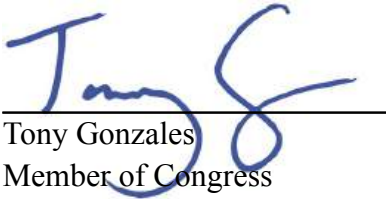
Lance Gooden
Member of Congress



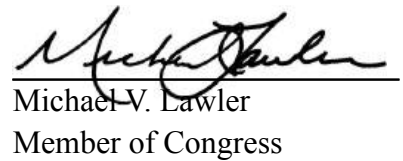
Jerry L. Carl
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

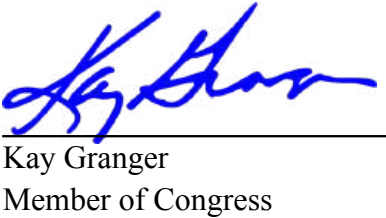
Washington, DC 20515



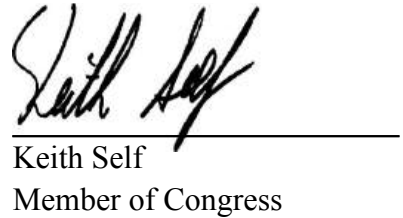
Tony Gonzales
Member of Congress



Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress



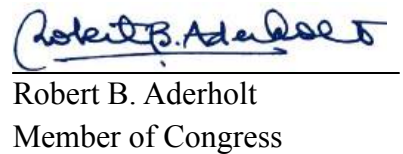
Kay Granger
Member of Congress



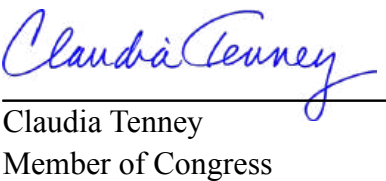
Keith Self
Member of Congress



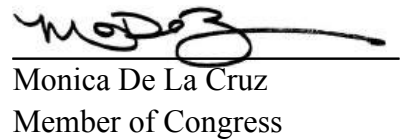
Mike Collins
Member of Congress



Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress



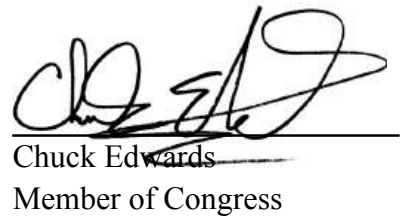
Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress



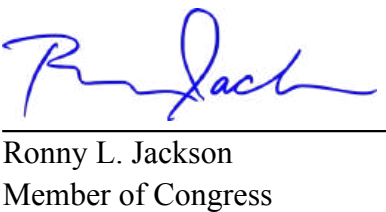
Monica De La Cruz
Member of Congress



Mike Ezell
Member of Congress



Chuck Edwards
Member of Congress



Ronny L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515



Rich McCormick, MD, MBA
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress



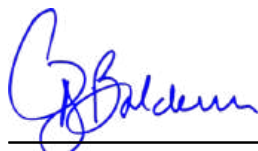
Don Bacon
Member of Congress



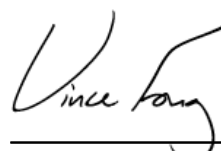
Jefferson Van Drew
Member of Congress



Erin Houchin
Member of Congress



Troy Balderson
Member of Congress



Vince Fong
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz
Member of Congress



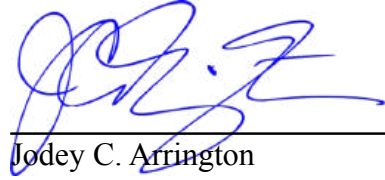
Harold Rogers
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

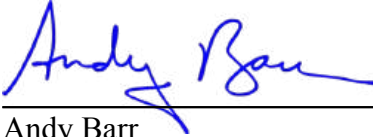
Washington, DC 20515



Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress



Jodey C. Arrington
Member of Congress



Andy Barr
Member of Congress



Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Steve Womack
Member of Congress



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress



Mike Rogers
Member of Congress



Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



John R. Moolenaar
Member of Congress



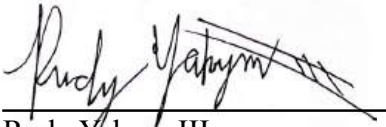
French Hill
Member of Congress



Carol D. Miller
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515



Rudy Yakym III
Member of Congress



KEN CALVERT
Member of Congress



Dan Bishop
Member of Congress



Ben Cline
Member of Congress



Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress



Garret Graves
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



Morgan Luttrell
Member of Congress



Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress



Ron Estes
Member of Congress



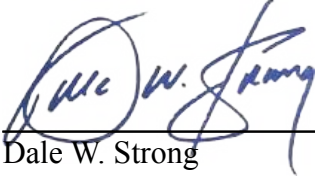
Nathaniel Moran
Member of Congress



Jake LaTurner
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515



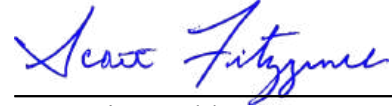
Dale W. Strong
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber, Sr.
Member of Congress



Mark E. Amodei
Member of Congress



Scott Fitzgerald
Member of Congress



Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



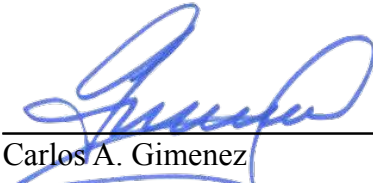
Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress



Lloyd Smucker
Member of Congress



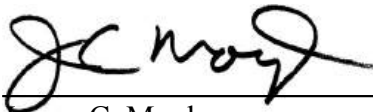
Greg Lopez
Member of Congress



Carlos A. Gimenez
Member of Congress



David P. Joyce
Member of Congress



James C. Moylan
Member of Congress



Bryan Steil
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515



Young Kim
Member of Congress



Michael A. Rulli
Member of Congress



Frank D. Lucas
Member of Congress



Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress



Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.
Member of Congress



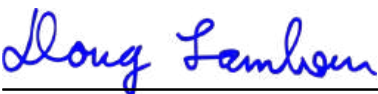
Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress



Stephanie Bice
Member of Congress



Mike Carey
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Tom Cole
Member of Congress



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress




Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

A black ink signature of Scott DesJarlais, featuring a large, sweeping loop at the top and a horizontal line at the bottom.

Scott DesJarlais, M.D.
Member of Congress

A black ink signature of Ryan K. Zinke, written in a cursive style with a prominent 'R' and 'Z'.

Ryan K. Zinke
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of Jim Banks, written in a cursive style with a prominent 'J' and 'B'.

Jim Banks
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of David Kustoff, written in a cursive style with a prominent 'D' and 'K'.

David Kustoff
Member of Congress