

Congress of the United States

Washington, D. C. 20515

April 24, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

Thank you for your announcement of COVID-19 related relief for our nation's farmers and ranchers. The support is critically needed.

As USDA begins the rule-making process to implement the relief package, we urge you to ensure help is effective and as immediate as possible based on available resources.

In the case of cattle alone, losses have soared to over \$13.6 billion since January while available relief under the package is \$5.1 billion. This gap between losses and relief is true across the entire spectrum of agricultural producers, including specialty and row crop farmers, dairymen, and pork and other livestock producers.

Given producers will suffer heavy losses even with the help provided under the relief package, we urge that relief not be further reduced by payment limitations that would harm real family farmers (of both specialty and row crops), ranchers, livestock and dairy producers. Pay limits may have a place in Farm Bill debates and may even be necessary in the context of trade aid. But, if the goal of this emergency package is to support critical infrastructure and industry, it needs to flow in proportion to production, risk, and losses.

We further urge that USDA develop a method of paying producers that will not discriminate against producers who marketed their crop or used risk management practices, including hedging and forward contracts. These are crucial to producers managing enormous risks.

We also urge USDA not to exclude producers of any crop from relief. The damage being inflicted by COVID-19 is worsening by the day and relief based on today's level of injury may not reflect needs a month or even a week from now. In addition, the broader agricultural supply chain beyond the farm-gate is also in need of critical relief and should be included in the next assistance package developed by USDA.

Finally, we would note that Congress did approve another \$14 billion for the CCC, although this is not the full replenishment you requested and it will not be available until this summer. Nonetheless, we urge USDA to include this amount in this relief package in order to address the concerns we have outlined and offer relief in phases as you did so successfully under

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the Market Facilitation Program. We stand ready to provide further resources to cover additional losses in the coming months if needed.

Thank you once again for leadership in providing critical aid to our farmers, ranchers, livestock and dairy producers.

Sincerely,



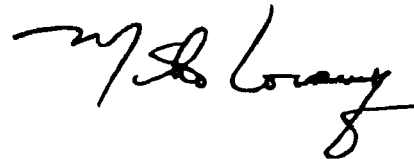
Kevin McCarthy
House Republican Leader



Steve Scalise
House Republican Whip



Liz Cheney
House Republican Conference Chair



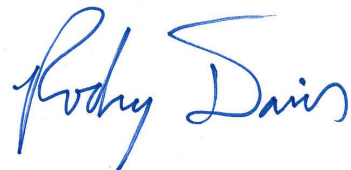
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Ranking Member,
House Agriculture Committee



Rick Crawford
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Austin Scott
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