

October 1, 2026

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

Dear Mr. President,

We appreciate your continued attention to the challenges facing America's farmers and ranchers and thank you for your administration's efforts to lower costs and reduce regulatory burdens across the farm economy. Farm program and tax improvements included in the One Big Beautiful Bill, along with economic assistance provided by USDA, will provide some relief to farmers across the country in combating higher fuel and fertilizer expenses due to the disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz.

Higher diesel expenses are hitting farmers at one of the most fuel-intensive times of the year – harvest. The national average on-highway diesel price has reached \$6.38 per gallon, while farm diesel in the heart of the Corn Belt climbed to nearly \$6.00 per gallon. Diesel is essential for the American economy and for farmers. Everything on the farm, from running tractors, combines and irrigation equipment to transporting crops, livestock and inputs requires diesel. Farmers and ranchers cannot postpone harvest or simply stop using diesel when prices rise.

On behalf of the millions of farm families across the country, the American Farm Bureau Federation urges the administration to consider immediate actions to lower diesel costs. We ask the Administration to temporarily suspend the federal highway diesel tax for agricultural transportation and quickly waive federal penalties for emergency use of dyed diesel on highways. Several states have already acted.

- Alabama has halted state enforcement of dyed-diesel restrictions and requested federal penalty relief from the Internal Revenue Service.
- Arkansas has temporarily suspended certain state taxes and penalties for qualifying agricultural and forestry operators using dyed diesel in highway vehicles through Oct. 30 and has directed the state to request federal penalty relief from the IRS.
- Georgia has temporarily suspended the state motor fuel excise tax, including the tax on diesel, and suspended state weight limits on commercial vehicles.
- Indiana has temporarily suspended special fuel restrictions to allow farmers and timber harvesters to use dyed diesel for qualifying agricultural transportation through Nov. 4.
- Louisiana has temporarily suspended state penalties for qualifying agricultural and forestry vehicles using dyed diesel on highways.
- Missouri temporarily authorized farmers to use dyed diesel on state highways for agricultural purposes and adjusted commercial vehicle weight limitations to increase transportation capacity.

- Nebraska is allowing highway-registered vehicles to use untaxed dyed diesel without state penalties, providing certain agricultural fuel-tax refunds and allowing higher agricultural and livestock hauling weights.
- Oklahoma has temporarily paused state enforcement of taxes, regulations and fines related to the use of dyed diesel in farm and highway vehicles and directed the state to seek federal penalty relief from the Internal Revenue Service.
- South Dakota is allowing agricultural haulers to operate up to 10% above normal weight restrictions, suspending the overweight trip permit and directing the state to monitor whether tax refunds may be warranted if regular diesel must be substituted for dyed diesel.
- Texas has also suspended state dyed-diesel restrictions and increased allowable weights for certain agricultural loads.

These states are acting quickly to ease the burden of high diesel prices, but remaining federal penalties can limit the relief they can provide on their own. We are optimistic that your Administration is diligently working with states to temporarily waive federal penalties, fines and enforcement on dyed diesel use so farmers and ranchers can get meaningful relief during this critical harvest season. Additionally, the temporary removal of the federal excise tax on diesel would provide immediate cost relief for farmers, ranchers and agricultural haulers that continue to rely on taxable clear diesel.

We appreciate your attention to this urgent issue. Farm Bureau stands ready to support the Administration on practical solutions to reduce fuel costs for America's farmers and ranchers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Zippy Duvall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Zippy" and last name "Duvall" clearly distinguishable.

Zippy Duvall
President