

November 14, 2023

Dear Member of Congress:

The American Farm Bureau Federation, the nation's largest general farm organization with nearly 6 million member families in all 50 states and Puerto Rico, encourages Congress to pass H.R. 6363, the Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, which extends the current farm bill through Sept. 30, 2024, and ensures the government continues to operate.

The farm bill has a long history of bipartisan support and is extremely crucial in providing certainty for America's farmers and ranchers, who work hard every day to provide the safest, most affordable food supply in the world. Unfortunately, delays in the fiscal year 2024 appropriations process and the threat of government shutdowns have consumed the legislative calendar and a farm bill extension is now necessary before the end of the year. If an extension is not passed by the end of the year, serious disruptions will ensue throughout the industry including the suspension of enrollment in safety net and conservation programs, a halt to agricultural research, and a reversion back to 1930s and 1940s farm policy.

While an extension is not preferred, it will allow Congress time to continue the work the Senate and House Agriculture committees have already done to complete a thoughtful five-year bill that addresses the current and future realities facing agriculture and every family in the nation. Farmers and ranchers need certainty, and Congress must ensure they have access to strong farm programs as they face inflationary pressures, weather disasters, and high supply costs. It is critically important we have a long-term, bipartisan farm bill in place as soon as possible.

In addition, we are hopeful the additional time will allow Congress to complete consideration of the fiscal year 2024 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration appropriations bill without undermining critical programs that America's farmers and ranchers rely upon to provide the safest and most abundant food supply in the world.

Thank you for your commitment to our nation's farmers and ranchers. We strongly urge Congress to pass a continuing resolution to avoid a government shutdown and extend the current farm bill for another year.

Sincerely,



Zippy Duvall, President