American Farm Bureau Federation®
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July 16, 2026

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Thune, Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson and Leader Jeffries:

Thank you for your continued support for America's farmers and ranchers. Investments in the farm safety net and tax relief secured in H.R.1 will set farmers and ranchers on a path towards improved market opportunities. We greatly appreciate Congress stepping in to deliver timely relief through the 2024 Emergency Commodity Assistance Program and the Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops Program. We also appreciate USDA's Farmer Bridge Assistance and Assistance for Specialty Crop Farmers programs. Those investments have provided important relief for farmers and ranchers during an exceptionally difficult economic period. However, despite this support, additional market relief is urgently needed for America's farmers.

As you are aware, farmers are facing persistently high inflation coupled with added price volatility for critical crop inputs like fertilizer due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz during this growing season. This has led to extremely tight operating margins and increased economic pressures on America's farmers. An alarming number of farm families are financially underwater from the last several years of sustained losses. As we approach harvest, many growers may have difficulty securing financing to grow their next crop. Congressional action on market relief cannot wait until another growing season has passed.

Persistent cost pressures from labor, regulatory compliance, fertilizer and energy have eroded margins, while weak commodity prices and challenging global markets have strained farm finances. Crop receipts have fallen sharply since 2022, reducing the cash flow and financial footing farmers rely on to weather downturns. While the U.S. trade deficit is projected to shrink, the economic benefits of new trade frameworks have yet to be fully realized on the farm.

Farmers producing everything from corn, rice, soybeans, wheat, sorghum and cotton are being squeezed financially, not because of poor yields, but because market prices have fallen well below the cost of production. The same story echoes across fruit, vegetables, nut, alfalfa and sugar producing regions, where rising labor, input and compliance costs are overwhelming returns.

America's farmers still face cumulative uncovered losses that exceed $12 billion despite the assistance provided to date. The American Farm Bureau Federation urges Congress to support market relief for America’s farmers that is sufficiently robust and broadly structured enough to reflect the depth of losses across agriculture.

Farms support rural communities as well as the jobs that keep those communities strong. Every farm lost takes with it generations of knowledge, community leadership, and the heartbeat of local economies. As those farms disappear, America’s food security is put at greater risk.

American agriculture has always been a strategic national asset, vital not only to our economy but to our food security and independence. We appreciate your longstanding support for rural America and respectfully request your leadership to secure the relief urgently needed to sustain our nation’s farmers and ranchers.

Sincerely,

Zippy Duvall
President