

# 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 118<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> of this year, does just that. This legislation is the product of input

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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 118<sup>th</sup> 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 118<sup>th</sup> Congress.

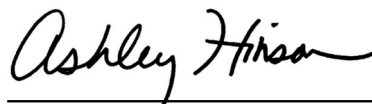
The Biden-Harris Administration and Democratic Congressional Leadership have failed to appreciate the dire situation in farm country and have stood in the way of progress on a highly effective farm bill, however we remain hopeful that after election year politics have run their course, they will join 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.

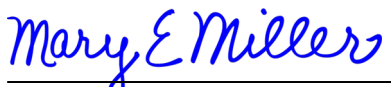
Sincerely,



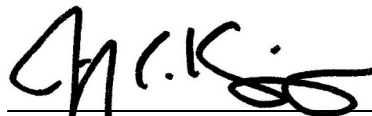
Mark Alford  
Member of Congress



Ashley Hinson  
Member of Congress



Mary E. Miller  
Member of Congress



Jen A. Riggans  
Member of Congress

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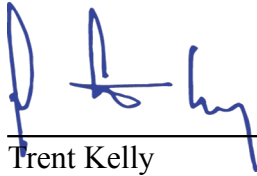
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Brandon Williams  
Member of Congress



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

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Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress



Dan Meuser  
Member of Congress



Cliff Bentz  
Member of Congress



Lori Chavez-DeRemer  
Member of Congress



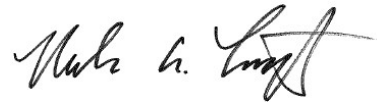
C. Scott Franklin  
Member of Congress



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

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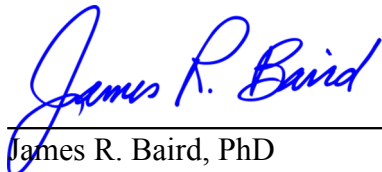
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David G. Valadao  
Member of Congress




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Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
Member of Congress



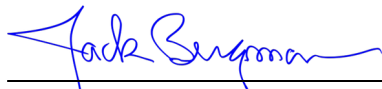
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James R. Baird, PhD  
Member of Congress



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Michael K. Simpson  
Member of Congress



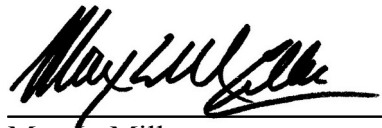
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Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress



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Nick LaLota  
Member of Congress



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Max L. Miller  
Member of Congress



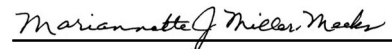
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James Comer  
Member of Congress



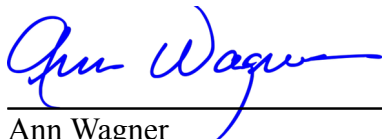
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Larry Bucshon, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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



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Ann Wagner  
Member of Congress

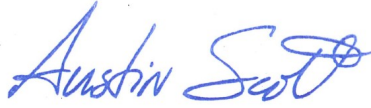


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Pat Fallon  
Member of Congress

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Austin Scott  
Member of Congress



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Eric A. "Rick" Crawford  
Member of Congress



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Tracey Mann  
Member of Congress



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A. Drew Ferguson IV  
Member of Congress



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Derrick Van Orden  
Member of Congress



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Adrian Smith  
Member of Congress



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John H. Rutherford  
Member of Congress



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Rick W. Allen  
Member of Congress



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Juan Ciscomani  
Member of Congress



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Kelly Armstrong  
Member of Congress



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Brad Finstad  
Member of Congress



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Zach Nunn  
Member of Congress

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Mike Flood  
Member of Congress



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Randy Feenstra  
Member of Congress



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Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress



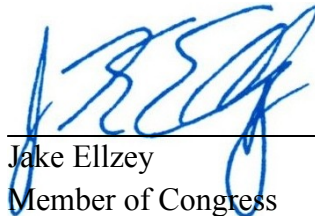
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Marcus J. Molinaro  
Member of Congress



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Michelle Fischbach  
Member of Congress



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Jake Ellzey  
Member of Congress



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John Joyce, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Michael Guest  
Member of Congress



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Julia Letlow, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress



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John S. Duarte  
Member of Congress



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Lance Gooden  
Member of Congress



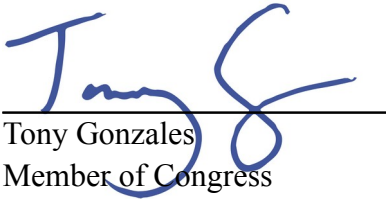
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Jerry L. Carl  
Member of Congress

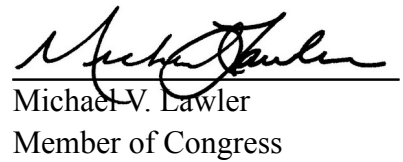


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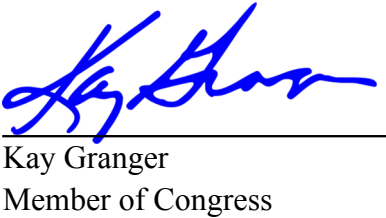
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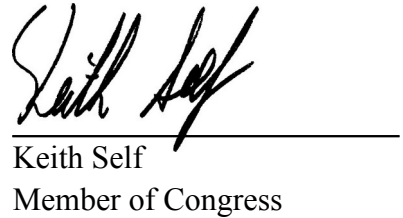
Tony Gonzales  
Member of Congress



Michael V. Lawler  
Member of Congress



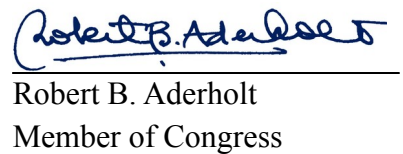
Kay Granger  
Member of Congress



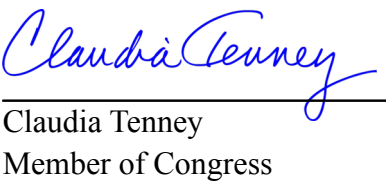
Keith Self  
Member of Congress



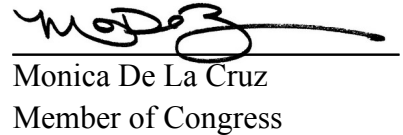
Mike Collins  
Member of Congress



Robert B. Aderholt  
Member of Congress



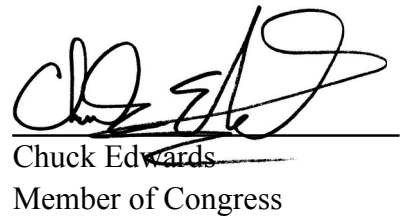
Claudia Tenney  
Member of Congress



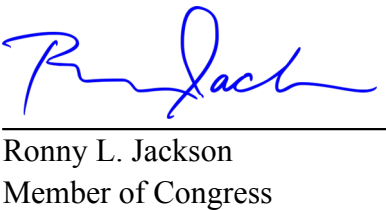
Monica De La Cruz  
Member of Congress



Mike Ezell  
Member of Congress



Chuck Edwards  
Member of Congress



Ronny L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



Nicole Malliotakis  
Member of Congress



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Rich McCormick, MD, MBA  
Member of Congress



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Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress



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Dan Newhouse  
Member of Congress



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Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress



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Bill Huizenga  
Member of Congress



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Don Bacon  
Member of Congress



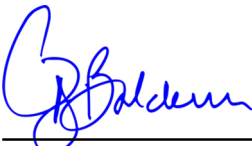
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Jefferson Van Drew  
Member of Congress



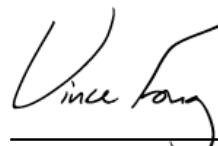
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Erin Houchin  
Member of Congress



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Troy Balderson  
Member of Congress



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Vince Fong  
Member of Congress



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Michael Waltz  
Member of Congress



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Harold Rogers  
Member of Congress

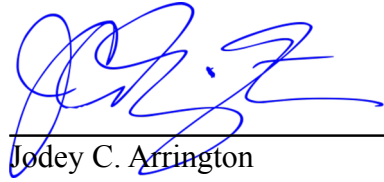
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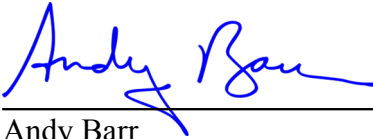
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Bruce Westerman  
Member of Congress



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Jodey C. Arrington  
Member of Congress



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Andy Barr  
Member of Congress



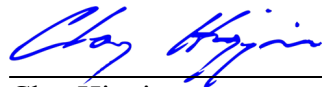
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Brian Babin, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress



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Steve Womack  
Member of Congress



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Clay Higgins  
Member of Congress



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Michael T. McCaul  
Member of Congress



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Mike Rogers  
Member of Congress



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Darin LaHood  
Member of Congress



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John R. Moolenaar  
Member of Congress



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French Hill  
Member of Congress

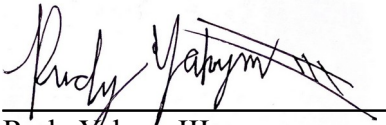


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Carol D. Miller  
Member of Congress

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Rudy Yakym III  
Member of Congress



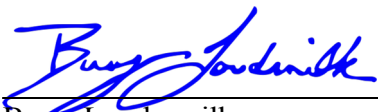
KEN CALVERT  
Member of Congress



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



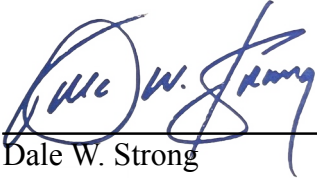
Nathaniel Moran  
Member of Congress



Jake LaTurner  
Member of Congress

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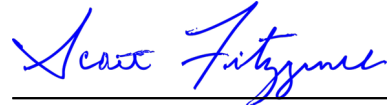
Dale W. Strong  
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber, Sr.  
Member of Congress



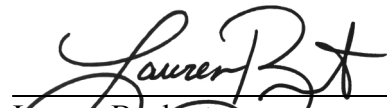
Mark E. Amodei  
Member of Congress



Scott Fitzgerald  
Member of Congress



Maria Elvira Salazar  
Member of Congress



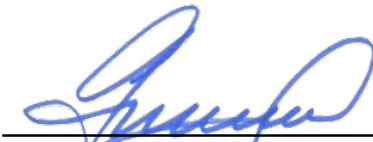
Lauren Boebert  
Member of Congress



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

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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



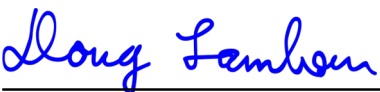
Neal P. Dunn, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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

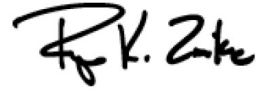
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A black ink signature of Scott DesJarlais, featuring a large, sweeping loop at the top and a horizontal line at the bottom.

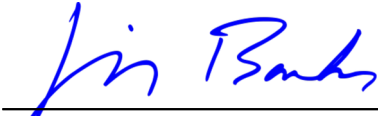
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Scott DesJarlais, M.D.  
Member of Congress

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

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Ryan K. Zinke  
Member of Congress

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

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Jim Banks  
Member of Congress

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

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David Kustoff  
Member of Congress